

SAWARA CYPRESS

Chamaecyparic pisifera filifera



EVERGREEN TREE

Family:	False Cypress
Native to:	Japanese Islands
Hardiness Zones:	4 to 8
Bloom Time:	October to December
Height:	6 to 20 feet
Spread:	3 to 7 feet

Culture:

Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Best in part shade. Prefers moist, fertile soils, but not wet, poorly-drained soils. Shelter from strong winds.

Sawara cypress is a large, pyramidal, evergreen conifer that grows in the wild to 50-70' (infrequently to 150') tall with a trunk diameter to 5'. In cultivation, it more typically matures to a much smaller 20-30' tall. Fine-textured medium green needles are tinted white beneath. Cones are small (1/4" across) and ornamentally insignificant, appearing glaucous green during summer before turning black-brown when ripe. Reddish brown bark peels in strips.

Did You Know:

Genus name comes from Greek *chamai* meaning dwarf or to the ground and *kyparissos* meaning cypress tree.

The name comes from the Latin word *pissum* meaning pea and *ferre* meaning to bear in reference to the very small rounded cones.

It is grown for its timber in Japan, where it is used as a material for building temples, palaces, shrines and baths, and making coffins. The wood is lemon-scented and light-colored with a rich, straight grain, and is rot resistant.

It is also a popular ornamental tree in gardens and parks, both in Japan and elsewhere in temperate climates including parts of North America.