

# Chamaecyparis lawsoniana

## COMMON NAME

Lawson's cypress

## FAMILY

Cupressaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* (Murray) Parl.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Gymnosperms

## NVS CODE

CHALAW

## HABITAT

Terrestrial.

## FEATURES

Large tree that can reach 50 m. Has narrow pyramidal shape and usually has branches present near the ground and drooping towards the apex. The bark is thick, fibrous and reddish-brown. Leaves are very small, dark green and appressed on the stems with the point free. Male cones are 2-5 mm long and red with dark blue spots. Female cones are 6-9 mm diameter and blue when young. Ageing to brown and opening to 8 distinct scales. 2-4 small winged seeds per scale.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Chamaecyparicus* is similar to *Cupressus*, but can be separated by the flattened branches. *Thuja* also has flattened branches but cones (of both sexes) are quite different. There are a number of species of *Chamaecyparicus* cultivated in New Zealand but the brightly coloured male cones distinguish *C. lawsoniana*

## FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

## YEAR NATURALISED

1940

## ORIGIN

California, Oregon, N. America

## Reason For Introduction

Ornamental

## Reproduction

Reproduces by seed.

## Seed

Up to 32 seeds per female cone. Estimate that there could be as many as 10,000 cones per mature tree.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/chamaecyparis-lawsoniana/>



*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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