

Chamaecyparis lawsoniana

COMMON NAMES

Lawson's cypress

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Gymnosperms

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Large tree that can reach 50 m. Has narrow pyramidal shape and usually has branches present near the ground and drooping towards the apex.

Bark 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.

Seeds 2–4 per scale, winged.

SIMILAR TAXA

Chamaecyparius 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 *Chamaecypariums* cultivated in New Zealand but the brightly coloured male cones distinguish *C. lawsoniana*.

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

GENUS

Chamaecyparis

FAMILY

Cupressaceae

AUTHORITY

Chamaecyparis lawsoniana (Murray) Parl.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

1940

ORIGIN

California, Oregon, N. America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental



Chamaecyparis lawsoniana. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

NVS CODE

CHALAW

MORE INFORMATION

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

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