

# 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

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial.

## 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

*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/>



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