**Chamaecyparis nootkatensis ‘Pendula’**
Nootka Falsecypress

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**INTRODUCTION**

A graceful, weeping, pyramidal evergreen, Nootka Falsecypress can reach 60 to 90 feet in the wild but stays within a height of 35 feet and a spread of 20 feet in cultivation (Fig. 1). The trunk remains straight and dominant throughout the life of the tree. The long, pendulous, flattened branches are clothed with dark bluish-green or grayish-green, scalelike "needles", which give off a rank odor when bruised or crushed. Nootka Falsecypress is native to coastal Alaska and Washington, performing best in areas with high humidity and moist soil conditions.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

- **Scientific name:** Chamaecyparis nootkatensis ‘Pendula’
- **Pronunciation:** kam-eh-SIP-uh-riss
  noot-kuh-TEN-sis
- **Common name(s):** Nootka Falsecypress, Alaska-Cedar
- **Family:** Cupressaceae
- **USDA hardiness zones:** 4 through 8A (Fig. 2)
- **Origin:** native to North America
- **Uses:** Bonsai; container or above-ground planter; recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; near a deck or patio; specimen
- **Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

**DESCRIPTION**

- **Height:** 35 to 50 feet
- **Spread:** 15 to 20 feet
- **Crown uniformity:** irregular outline or silhouette

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1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-155, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: November 1993.

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Crown shape: pyramidal; weeping
Crown density: moderate
Growth rate: medium
Texture: fine

Foliage
Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: entire
Leaf shape: scale-like
Leaf venation: none, or difficult to see
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen; fragrant
Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches
Leaf color: blue or blue-green; green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Fruit
Fruit shape: round
Fruit length: < .5 inch
Fruit covering: dry or hard
Fruit color: brown
Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; inconspicuous and not showy; no significant litter problem

Trunk and Branches
Trunk/bark/branches: bark is thin and easily damaged from mechanical impact; droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; not particularly showy; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns
Pruning requirement: needs little pruning to develop a strong structure
Breakage: resistant
Current year twig color: brown; green
Current year twig thickness: thin
Wood specific gravity: 0.44
Culture

**Light requirement:** tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in the shade; tree grows in full sun
**Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; acidic; well-drained
**Drought tolerance:** moderate

Other

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem
**Winter interest:** no special winter interest
**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time
**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** not known to be susceptible
**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

**USE AND MANAGEMENT**

It makes a striking specimen, with a distinct, graceful, weeping habit. Even one plant will soften any landscape. Use it near water or around a patio or as a lawn specimen in residential or commercial landscapes. It reportedly does best with some shade from the afternoon sun, particularly in the southern part of its range. Trees in full sun look great in zone 5.

**Pests**

Juniper scale can be controlled by applying pesticides when the crawlers are active.

The bagworm webs foliage and debris together to make a case. The covering makes the insect difficult to control. The nests can be picked off by hand.

**Diseases**

Blight can be a problem on young plants in nurseries or old plants in landscape situations. In young plants, branch tips turn brown and die back until the whole branch or young tree is killed. Tip blight infects trees during wet weather. The disease causes sooty pustules on the leaves, bark and cones.

Trees over five years old are less susceptible. When older trees in landscapes are affected by tip blight, entire trees are seldom killed.