**Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Crippsii'**
‘Cripps Golden’ Hinoki Falsecypress

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson

**INTRODUCTION**

This broad, sweeping, conical-shaped evergreen has graceful, flattened, fern-like branchlets which gently droop at branch tips (Fig. 1). Beautiful, shiny, new, golden/yellow foliage matures to green throughout the interior of the tree but some random yellow highlights are still obvious in clustered sprays at branch ends, giving the trees a wonderful two-toned effect. Cripp’s Golden Hinoki Falsecypress reaches 50 to 75 feet in height with a spread of 20 to 30 feet, and has attractive, shredding, reddish-brown bark which peels off in long narrow strips.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Scientific name:** Chamaecyparis obtusa ‘Crippsii’  
**Pronunciation:** kam-eh-SIP-uh-riss ob-TOO-suh  
**Common name(s):** ‘Cripps Golden’ Hinoki Falsecypress  
**Family:** Cupressaceae  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 4 through 8A (Fig. 2)  
**Origin:** not native to North America  
**Uses:** Bonsai; screen; specimen  
**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

**DESCRIPTION**

**Height:** 50 to 75 feet  
**Spread:** 20 to 30 feet  
**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms  
**Crown shape:** spreading; pyramidal  
**Crown density:** dense  
**Growth rate:** medium  
**Texture:** fine

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**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
- **Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches
- **Leaf color:** yellow
- **Fall color:** no fall color change
- **Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Fruit**

- **Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; inconspicuous and not showy; no significant litter problem

**Trunk and Branches**

- **Trunk/bark/branches:** droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; showy trunk; 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

**Culture**

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

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.
Other

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem  
**Winter interest:** no special winter interest  
**Outstanding tree:** not particularly outstanding  
**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time  
**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** not known to be susceptible  
**Pest resistance:** no pests are normally seen on the tree

### USE AND MANAGEMENT

Cripp’s Golden Hinoki Falsecypress should be grown in part sun in the south on moist, well-drained soil, in areas of moderate to high humidity, and preferably where the trees can be protected from harsh winds. Somewhat picky and probably more of a novelty than a staple landscape plant. Coloration is not as pronounced when grown in partial shade.  

Propagation is by cuttings.

### Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.