

Cypresses and false cypresses - *Cupressus*, *Chamaecyparis* (now also *Cupressus*), *Thuja*, *Thujopsis*, and *Calocedrus*:

Species	Cone shape/size	Leaves similar or different*	Foliage sprays	Other features
<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i> Monterey cypress	Globose, 3-4cm. Persistent.	Similar	3D, dark green	Cone scales with a curved central boss. Foliage with a fake lemon scent when lightly crushed.
<i>Cupressus glabra</i> Smooth Arizona cypress	Spherical, 1.5-2.5cm. Persistent in clusters.	Similar	3D, often strongly glaucous.	Bark flaking to reveal reddish-purple or sometimes yellowish patches. Leaves with a tiny blob of white resin in centre.
<i>Cupressus lawsoniana</i> (<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>) Lawson cypress	Spherical, 0.7cm	Different	2D	Prominent translucent glands in leaves; crushed foliage smells like resinous parsley; apical shoot lops over. Pollen cones initially black, ripening red. Many horticultural cultivars!!
<i>Cupressus obtusa</i> (<i>Chamaecyparis obtusa</i>) <i>Hinoki</i>	Spherical, 0.8-1.2cm diameter.	Different	2D	Facial leaves obtuse. Prominent white X/Y pattern on branchlet underside. Smoothly spherical cones.
<i>Cupressus pisifera</i> (<i>Chamaecyparis pisifera</i>) <i>Sawarra cypress</i>	Spherical, tiny – 0.8-0.8cm diameter.	Different	2D	Facial leaves with a sharply pointed tip. Foliage with a sharp resinous smell. Many cultivars, often with exaggerated foliage (e.g. ‘Filifera’), or juvenile foliage (‘Squarrosa’ and ‘Plumosa’)
<i>Cupressus nootkatensis</i> Nootka cypress	Spherical, 2cm, scales with prominent central spine.	Similar,	2D, pendulous	Whole tree with a distinctive flame or tear-drop form when open grown. Crushed foliage with a ‘rank’ oily aroma. Pollen cones yellow
<i>Cupressus x leylandii</i> Leyland cypress	Not all cultivars bear cones. Spherical, 2-3cm. Scales with a blunt central spine.	Generally similar, but variable	3D, ‘untidy/scruffy’	Usually columnar, Pollen cones yellow

<i>Thuja plicata</i> Western red-cedar	Goblet/tulip shaped, 1-1.2cm long.	Different	2D	Crushed foliage with a strong sweet smell like fruit salad penny chews, Wrigleys juicy fruit chewing gum, or fake pineapple.
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> Northern white-cedar/arborvitae	Goblet/tulip shaped, .9-1.4cm long.	Different	2D	Prominent raised gland on facial scale leaves. Foliage with a fragrance often likened to that of green apples!
<i>Platycladus orientalis</i> Chinese thuja	Ovoid, 1-1.5cm. Strong waxy bloom when young.	Different	2D, vertical sprays	Foliage with very little or no scent, same colour either side; cone scale tips with strongly reflexed spines. Seeds wingless
<i>Thujopsis dolabrata</i> Hiba	Sub-globose, 1-1.6cm diameter.	Different	2D, thickened	Thickened foliage with striking crisp white markings on the underside.
<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i> Incense cedar	2cm, goblet/tulip shaped. 2 fertile scales	Different	2D, vertical sprays	Crushed foliage smells of boot polish. Whole tree with distinctive ' torpedo ' silhouette.

*Lateral leaves either distinctly different from facial leaves, or the same size and shape.

Thanks to Ros Bennett whose conifer lateral key was the basis for this one.