Aurea Monterey Cypress

Cupressus macrocarpa 'Aurea'



Aurea Monterey Cypress foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 35 feet

Spread: 30 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 7

Description:

A irregularly pyramidal variety that will become more flat topped with age; native to the coast, it is tolerant of wind and salt spray; this variety has the potential to grow to huge proportions in ideal conditions, but can be maintained by pruning

Ornamental Features

Aurea Monterey Cypress is primarily valued in the landscape for its distinctively pyramidal habit of growth. It has attractive light green evergreen foliage which emerges yellow in spring. The scale-like sprays of foliage are highly ornamental and remain light green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Aurea Monterey Cypress is a dense evergreen tree with a strong central leader and a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which can make it a great accent feature on this basis alone.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Aurea Monterey Cypress is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Vertical Accent

Planting & Growing

Aurea Monterey Cypress will grow to be about 35 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in poor soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selection of a native North American species.