Smooth Cypress

Cupressus arizonica 'var. glabra'



Smooth Cypress
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 35 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 6

Other Names: Cupressus glabra

Description:

A conical and upright accent tree, foliage is wonderfully fine and blue-green; bark continually flakes away to reveal attractive cherry red inner bark; use as a solitary accent in the yard or a large garden, very hard to miss all season long

Ornamental Features

Smooth Cypress is primarily valued in the landscape for its rigidly columnar form. It has attractive bluish-green evergreen foliage. The fragrant scale-like sprays of foliage are highly ornamental and remain bluish-green throughout the winter.



Smooth Cypress foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Smooth Cypress is a dense evergreen tree with a strong central leader and a narrowly upright and columnar growth habit. 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. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Smooth Cypress is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Vertical Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- Windbreaks and Shelterbelts

Planting & Growing

Smooth Cypress will grow to be about 35 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a fast 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 sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selection of a native North American species.