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### Chamaecyparis obtusa (False Cypress-Hinoki) ID #982

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Tyler Deppert

April 16, 2020

Bio 140: Humans and Their Environment

Salve Regina University

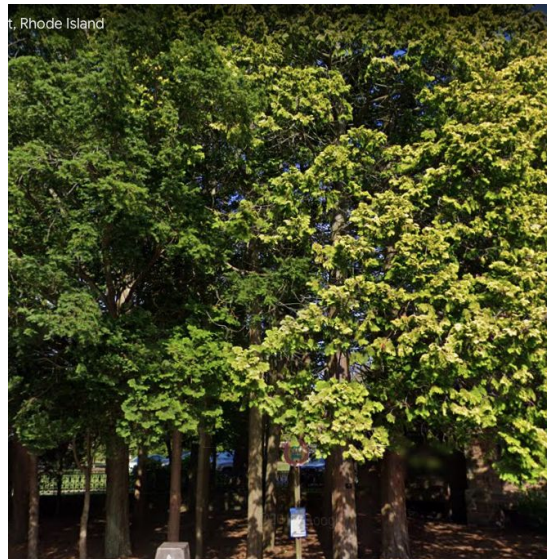


False Cypress-Hinoki

*Chamaecyparis obtusa*

ID #982

For this assignment I was asked to pick a tree on the Salve Regina Campus and to study and observe it every week along with taking pictures and capturing its changes and beauty. I first spotted this tree on my way back from Miley hall and ever since it has struck my eyes every time I walk past it. There was something about the tree that gave me a good feeling and I just loved the way it looked. My grandparents were both landscapers and knew a whole lot about trees. They loved pine trees and this one other tree that to this day I can not remember but for some reason this tree reminds me of them. This tree is located in a few different locations on the Salve Campus but when I first took notice of it, it was in front of the Mckillop library parking lot. You can spot it on the left of you if you were walking to Miley Hall from Hunt Hall which is where I would see it everyday.



The False Cypress-Hinoki with its unique textures, beautiful reddish bark and vibrant green bristles make this a wonderful tree that will certainly accent a property. Throughout my time being on the salve campus, the tree had not experienced much change. It isn't the type of species of tree to lose its leaves or bristles seasonally. It basically looked the same throughout the entire year. The picture above is another location on campus where I found the same species of tree. This is located at the entrance of O'hare to the left.

The False Cypress-hinoki is a species of Cypress native to Japan. It is widely cultivated in the temperate northern hemisphere for its high quality timber and its ornamental qualities. It is very popular for outside home decor in japanese cultures. Its aromatic wood was traditionally used for making shrines, theaters, and palaces.

There are more than 200 different cultivars of the Hinoki Cypress trees, they range from all kinds of heights and sizes from about 12 inches to 75 feet. Some of the plants that are native

to its biological community are as listed; Butter Ball, Confucious, Ellie B., Gemstone, Gracilis, Fernspray Gold, Just Dandy, Kosteri, Melody, Nana, Nana Gracilis, Nana Lutea, Reis Dwarf, Sunny Swirl, and Tetragona Aurea and many more. All of which end in the family name Cypress. They differ by having smaller cones, smaller scales, and leaves with different shapes and sizes.



The False Cypress-Hinoki trees don't do very well condition wise when transported as a fully grown tree. If you wish to grow this type of tree, place it as a sapling or plant the seeds in a location that can handle its large size and maturity. Hinoki Cypress's prefer moist but well drained, loamy soil. Full sun is preferred as well but the tree will do just fine in light shade. This tree although grows in every season, thrives in the spring to summer to fall region due to the sunlight. These cypress trees, once established in its home, don't require that much maintenance.

As I said before, the tree's lumber was widely used by those who were able to obtain the tree. It was preferred over most other trees due to its strength and high quality. Along with good lumber there is another thing that this tree offers to humans and that is, essential oils. Hinoki Cypress is the representative tree of forest bathing, and essential oil from the cypress obtusa is widely used in commercial products. This essential oil promotes proliferation and growth of hair follicle cells through induction of vascular endothelial growth factor. Along with that, recently reported news has shown that C obtusa essential oil can suppress proliferation of breast cancer cells and have anti-inflammatory effects on mice.

In Japan the False Cypress-Hinoki are considered culturally significant, even sacred. Countless shrines and temples honoring shinto religion have been built using hinoki wood columns. This durability and rot resistant wood has an earned reputation of long durability and high quality, hence its timber is very expensive. Ise Grand Shrine, in Mie Prefecture exemplifies the reference for hinoki wood. In a 1300 year old tradition, scores of wooden shrines repeatedly replaced with new buildings, often reusing hinoki wood.



Unfortunately the False Cypress Hinoki has not been written about in any songs or poems, although I feel with the right practice I could make a great hit about the Hinoki Cypress, maybe even a platinum record, who knows.

This species of tree along with all the other beautiful trees and plants that cover the Salve Regina Campus are just one more reason why the Salve community is such a gorgeous piece of land. It is trees like this one that really make a student like myself stop and think about how beautiful nature really is. It allows a great opportunity for students to be surrounded by all different types of diversity and culture.

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