

Salve Regina University

Digital Commons @ Salve Regina

BIO 140 Arboretum Project

Class Projects

2023

Chameacyparis Obtusa (Hinoki False Cypress), ID #317

Grace A. Zatulskis

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.salve.edu/bio140_arboretum

Hinoki False Cypress

Chameacyparis Obtusa

ID #317

Location: Misto Gatehouse

Height: 16.2 m

DBH: 1 meter

Radius of Crown: 4.695 meters

Condition: Good

Age Class: Mature

Dates of Observation: 9/25/23 – 11/30/23

BIO 140-01

Grace Zatulskis

December 11th, 2023



Observation 1: September 25th, 2023

My first observation of this tree is that it was unlike any tree I had ever seen before. The bark of the tree was light brown but also had red peeking through from underneath. I also noticed that the tree's bark was very different from trees I had seen before, as this bark was thin and almost splinter-like. The branches coming off of the tree were all for the most part very thin and sporadic. My tree is located next to the Misto Gatehouse, right next to the trolley stop, surrounded by multiple other Hinoki False Cypresses.

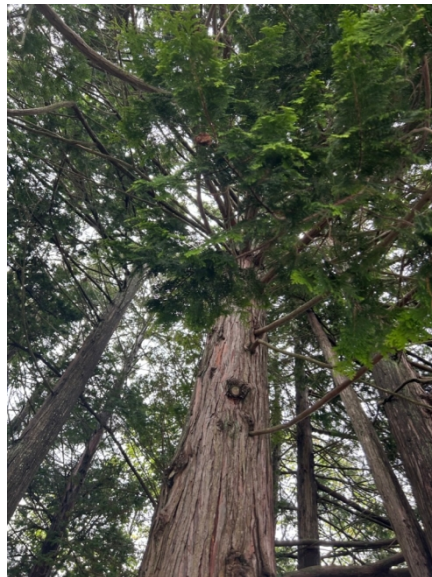


Figure 1.

Observation 2: October 6th, 2023

From my second observation, I noticed that some of the pines on the tree were beginning to lighten in comparison from the last time I looked. Since last week, there had been lots of wind so there were also some leaves on the ground. I had researched that this was an evergreen tree that

tends to prefer moist soil but can be very adaptable to all soils. When I looked at the soil it was currently in, it appeared to be very moist and dense, which is good for the tree.



Figure 2.

Observation 3: October 11th, 2023

When I came back to my tree, I noticed that the leaves were changing only in one specific area, compared to last week when only a couple branches were changing. The bottom portion of my tree had become much lighter in comparison to the rest of my tree, but the weather in that week hadn't changed that much. The leaves were overall duller and more yellow towards the bottom, while the top maintained the darker, more vibrant green. The weather this week was very humid, which is good for the Hinoki False Cypress, and makes it a more suitable environment to live in.



Figure 3.

Observation 4: October 16th, 2023

As I went back to the tree again, I noticed that the leaves directly at the bottom were getting even lighter than before. There was starting to be more yellow present, instead of just light green. I could tell that this was a sign that the tree was beginning to change for the winter, which is something that the False Cypress-Hinoki does, by changing its leaves to a yellow shade that would eventually turn brown once it got colder. In my research about the Hinoki False Cypress, I noticed that the trunk of the tree is always typically 1 meter at its largest, which holds true to my specific tree.



Figure 4.

Observation 5: October 27th, 2023

Since the last time I visited my tree, not much had changed. The leaves towards the bottom were still a pale yellow and they might have possibly become duller but overall, there hadn't been much change. Some branches were turning brown, but nothing that was a sign of the tree fully changing. From my research, these trees do best in sunlight. The placement of this tree was clearly researched because most of the time when I visit my tree, it is in direct sunlight.



Figure 5.

Observation 6: November 8th, 2023

This week, I noticed that the top of the tree had gone from being its vibrant green, to a dull brown. Overall, the tree was duller in color and seemed to be wilting downwards towards the top where it was getting darker. The ground beneath the tree was also scattered with branches and leaves, all brown in color. The bark seemed to be becoming lighter, a sign that the tree was overall becoming more prepared for the colder months ahead.



Figure 6.

Observation 7: November 13th, 2023

When I went to look at my tree again, I decided to look from the bottom up. I noticed the sheer sparseness of the leaves coming off the tree as I reached the top. This was a sign that my tree was further preparing for winter. In these last couple of weeks, my tree had not made a lot of changes in visual terms, but the climate was getting colder and dryer, which doesn't fare well for my tree.



Figure 7.

Observation 8: November 30th, 2023

For my last visit to my tree, I really wanted to look at all aspects of my tree. The leaves were getting duller, but there hadn't been much change since the last time I had been, even though it had been weeks. The bark of the tree was losing the redness that I had previously seen below the brown exterior bark. I assume this is because it was getting colder so the tree is "bundling up" to prepare for the harsh New England winter.

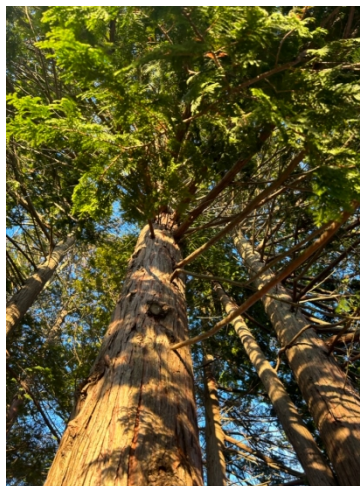


Figure 8.

Throughout this time with the Hinoki False Cypress, I learned a lot more than I ever thought. I found it fun to check in on my tree and keep track of what was going on with it throughout the months. In the beginning, my tree was vibrant and green and by the end it was dull and turning yellow. I wish I was able to look at my tree more in the winter because then I could see it have a full range of colors. Although my tree did not experience a lot of drastic changes, by having a gradual change it allowed me to have to notice more closely what was going on with my tree.

Works Cited

Beaulieu, David. "Hinoki Cypress Tree Plant Profile." *The Spruce*, TheSpruce, 24 May 2008, www.thespruce.com/hinoki-cypress-trees-2132062.

“Chamaecyparis Obtusa (Dwarf Hinoki Falsecypress, Hinoki Cypress, Hinoki Falsecypress) | North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox.” *Plants.ces.ncsu.edu*, plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/chamaecyparis-obtusa/.

Kennedy, Corinne. “Hinoki: A Revered Conifer.” *Seattle Japanese Garden*, 16 Dec. 2016, www.seattlejapanesegarden.org/blog/2016/12/16/hinoki#:~:text=Chamaecyparis%20obtusa%2C%20the%20species%20plant. Accessed 8 Dec. 2023.

“The History of Hinoki Japanese Cypress and the Uses of Hinoki Essential Oil.” *Vorda*, 27 May 2022, byvorda.com/blogs/botanical-garden/the-history-of-hinoki-and-uses-of-hinoki-essential-oil. Accessed 8 Dec. 2023.