

WACD PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

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Port Orford Cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*)

Distribution

Port Orford Cedar is a non-native species in Washington State. Its native range extends in a narrow band along the Pacific coast from northern California to southern Oregon.

Growth Habit

Port Orford Cedar can grow to 100 feet tall and the trunk can reach over 3 feet in diameter. In open exposure its branches and foliage remain full almost to the ground. Its canopy can spread to 10 feet wide.

Adaptability

Port Orford Cedar is best suited at low to mid elevations west of the Cascades. It is tolerant of shade, but is more vigorous with ample sun. It requires well drained soils. It is susceptible to a damaging root rot in soils that are excessively wet.

Comments

- Port Orford Cedar is considered an introduced species to this state, although it is not far from its native range, and grows well in marine influenced areas.
- It is a highly valued timber species, particularly in the export timber market to Japan.
- It is a good conifer to use in shelter belts.
- Its denser, narrow growth habit makes it a popular choice for wind breaks and ornamental uses. It has been bred extensively for ornamental production over the years, and well over 100 cultivars exist that have been selected for a wide variety of traits from varying growth habits to distinctive foliage color.

