

INFORMATION SHEET

CYPRESSES



Common and botanical names: Lusitanica (*Cupressus lusitanica*),
Lawson cypress (*Chamecyparis lawsoniana*), Leyland Cypress (*Cupressocyparis leylandii*)

APPEARANCE AND DESCRIPTION:

- The wood of all the cypress species is similar, and are noted for their fragrant spicy odour.
- Cypresses have a yellow-brown coloured heartwood and paler sapwood with a fine even texture. The timber has a natural lustre that makes it a good substitute for kauri, particularly lusitanica.

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Durability:

- The heartwood gives some protection for above ground purposes, but the sapwood is non-durable.
- The timber cannot be pressure treated with CCA, but can be boron treated to H3.1 and H1.2 hazard class. When used as framing, boron treated hazard class H1.2 cypress framing can be used wherever H1.2 treated radiata pine framing is acceptable.
- Untreated timber can be used for interior framing and finishing, and non-skillion roof trusses.

Mechanical Properties:

Strength values refer to 20x20mm clearwood specimens

Property	Lusitanica	Lawsons	Leyland
Density at 12% moisture content	460 kg/m ³	480 kg/m ³	495 kg/m ³
Modulus of elasticity	6.5 GPa	12.1 GPa	6.9 GPa
Bending strength	69.6 MPa	97.7 MPa	85.6 MPa
Compression strength	38 MPa	37.3 MPa	38 MPa
Hardness	2.6 kN	2.5 kN	1.9 kN
Shrinkage green to OD, tangential	2.6%	3.6%	3.2%
Shrinkage green to OD, radial	1.4%	2.2%	1.4%

Machining:

Cypresses are easily worked with hand or machine tools, and take an excellent finish provided the cutters are kept sharp and free from extractives.

Gluing and coating considerations:

There are no known problems of incompatibility with any type of adhesive. Wipe-on stains tend to give a streaky appearance. Clear finishes enhance the natural lustre and work well when the timber is given an initial oil coating.

SUSTAINABILITY:

Plantations have increased from about 4000ha in 1986 to about 8000ha currently (MAF NEFD 2007). These have a median age of less than 10 years. From these about 20,000 m³/yr are harvested. The most widely planted species were *Macrocarpa*, *Lawsoniana* and *Lusitanica* in that order. In addition to stands, cypresses have been widely planted for hedges and shelterbelts, particularly on farms in the 1920s and 1930s.

For suppliers of cypresses, visit the vendor's database on the NZ Wood website:
www.nzwood.co.nz

Or contact your local branch of the New Zealand Farm Forestry Association:
www.nzffa.org.nz