

## Arizona cypress

*Cupressus arizonica* Greene

Cypress family (Cupressaceae)

Post-Cook introduction

Medium-sized introduced aromatic evergreen tree with small scalelike leaves. Trunk straight, to 40 ft (12 m) high and 1 ft (0.3 m) in diameter, with conical or rounded crown of spreading branches. Bark commonly reddish brown, smoothish or scaly, peeling off in thin scale plates; in one variety rough, thick, furrowed, gray or blackish. Twigs numerous, 4-angled, branching nearly at right angles in all directions, green, becoming dark brown.

Leaves paired, scalelike, overlapping in 4 rows against twig, blunt-pointed,  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch (15 mm) long, pale blue green, often with gland dot and drop of resin on back.

Seed-bearing (female) cones short-stalked, rounded,  $\frac{3}{4}$ –1 inch (2–2.5 cm) in diameter, hard and woody, gray brown, remaining attached several years. Conescales 6 or 8, shield-shaped, with raised point in center. Seeds about 100 per cone, oblong or 3-angled, brown, about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch (3 mm) long, with narrow wing. Pollen cones (male) on same tree, more than  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch (3 mm) long, yellow.

Wood moderately soft and lightweight; heartwood, light brown, fragrantly scented, and very durable. Elsewhere used for fenceposts. In Hawaii, wood not widely known or distinguished from other cypresses and not used.

This handsome tree with blue green foliage and scaly reddish brown bark has been planted elsewhere in the world as an ornamental and in shelterbelts. It is cultivated also as a Christmas tree in southeastern States. In Hawaii, a total of 10,300 trees were planted between 1910 and 1960. L. W. Bryan (1947) reported that it was growing well at low and middle elevations in Hawaii. It may be seen at Waihou Spring Forest Reserve on Maui, where 80 trees were planted in 1936. In 1939, the largest planting of this species, 3200 trees, was in the Kula Forest Reserve on Maui.

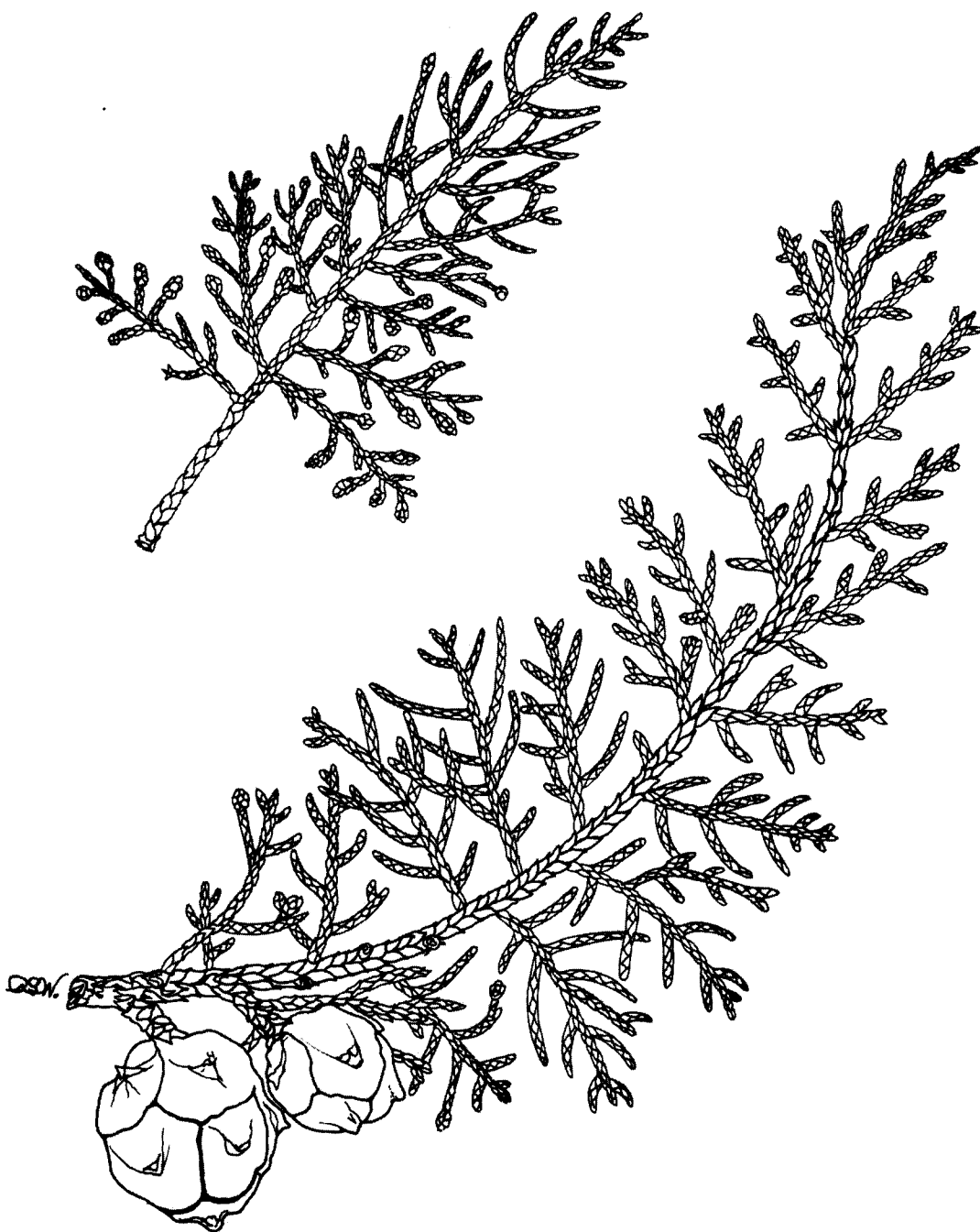
### Range

Southwestern continental United States from trans-Pecos Texas to Arizona and southern California and in northern Mexico (5 varieties or closely related species).

### Other common names

Arizona rough cypress, Arizona smooth cypress

The commonly cultivated variation with reddish brown scaly bark is Arizona smooth cypress (var. *glabra* (Sudw.) Little).



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Twig with male cones (upper left) and twig with cones, 1 X.