



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Arizona Cypress or Táscate *Cupressus arizonica*

DESCRIPTION: Arizona Cypress is native to canyons from 3,000 to 7,000' elevation, from western Texas to southern Arizona and into northern Mexico. In habitat it can reach over 75' tall in time. In cultivation this evergreen can grow at a moderate to fast rate to 20 or 25' tall by 10' to 12' wide. The Arizona Cypress' symmetrical pyramidal form of compact branches holds handsome blue-gray foliage. Small cones are produced in the summer. This clone is 'Blue Pyramid', chosen for its beautiful color and shape.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as an accent, for shade (in time). Makes an excellent screen or windbreak.

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CULTURE:



Hardiness: Arizona Cypress is fully hardy in Tucson, taking temperatures down to 0°F.



Sun tolerance: Plant in full sun.



Watering and feeding: In more temperate areas it can eventually be nearly removed from irrigation after establishment, but will need regular watering in Tucson. Water deeply to encourage a deep extensive root system. Feed with a general purpose fertilizer before new growth begins in spring.



Soil requirements: Most soils that drain will do. It may struggle in heavy clay or caliche. Top the backfill with gravel or mulch to keep the sun off the root area.



Pruning and care: It can be pruned or sheared, but looks fine naturally. To retain its attractive shape, consider its ultimate size when planting to make excessive pruning unnecessary. In Tucson, it is important to keep the plant healthy (sun and water requirements adhered to) to avoid problems with spider mites.

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