

# *Cupressus sempervirens* 'Glauca': 'Glauca' Italian Cypress<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

With its narrow columnar habit of growth, this evergreen forms tall, dark green columns 25 to 40 feet in height but are often shorter in the east. 'Glauca' has blue-green foliage and tight columnar form. Trees are normally no more than three feet wide. The scale-like leaves lend a very fine texture to any setting. Planted three feet apart, they make a dense screen. Italian Cypress is often used for framing, as a strong accent around large buildings, or in the formal landscape but does not lend itself well to many home landscapes. It quickly grows much too tall for most residential landscapes, looking much like a green telephone pole.

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Cupressus sempervirens*

**Pronunciation:** koo-PRESS-us sem-per-VYE-renz

**Common name(s):** 'Glauca' Italian Cypress

**Family:** *Cupressaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 7B through 11 (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Invasive potential:** little invasive potential

**Uses:** screen

**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

## Description

**Height:** 25 to 40 feet

**Spread:** 3 to 6 feet



Figure 1. Middle-aged *Cupressus sempervirens* 'Glauca': 'Glauca' Italian Cypress

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical

**Crown shape:** columnar

**Crown density:** dense

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** fine

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Figure 2. Range

## Foliage

- Leaf arrangement:** whorled (Fig. 3)
- Leaf type:** simple
- Leaf margin:** entire
- Leaf shape:** scale-like
- Leaf venation:** none, or difficult to see
- Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen
- Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches
- Leaf color:** green, blue or blue-green
- Fall color:** no color change
- Fall characteristic:** not showy

## Flower

- Flower color:** unknown
- Flower characteristics:** not showy

## Fruit

- Fruit shape:** oval
- Fruit length:** .5 to 1 inch
- Fruit covering:** dry or hard
- Fruit color:** brown
- Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; not showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

## Trunk and Branches

- Trunk/bark/branches:** branches don't droop; not showy; typically one trunk; thorns
- Pruning requirement:** little required
- Breakage:** resistant
- Current year twig color:** brown, gray
- Current year twig thickness:** thin
- Wood specific gravity:** unknown

## Culture

- Light requirement:** full sun
- Soil tolerances:** sand; loam; clay; acidic; alkaline; well-drained
- Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate

## Other

- Roots:** not a problem
- Winter interest:** no
- Outstanding tree:** no
- Ozone sensitivity:** unknown
- Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** resistant

**Pest resistance:** sensitive to pests/diseases

## Use and Management

Growing in full sun on various well-drained soils, Italian Cypress should be planted in a well-prepared site and watered periodically until well-established. Italian Cypress should not be pruned. It is very susceptible to mites and trees are often infested.

Many cultivars are available: `Stricta` is very popular; `Horizontalis` has horizontally-spreading branches.

Propagation is by cuttings or layering.

## Pests

Bagworms are occasionally a problem for Italian Cypress. Mites are often a problem.

## Diseases

Root rot can be a problem for Italian Cypress in poorly-drained soil. Canker has killed many trees in California.