

Information and Care Instructions

Lemon Cypress

Quick Reference

- Botanical Name - Cupressus macrocarpa 'Wilma'
- Exposure - Very bright
- Indoor Placement - Bright location but not in direct afternoon sun
- USDA Hardiness - Zone 7-10
- Inside Temperature - 40-70°F
- Min Outside Temperature - 0°F
- Plant Type - Evergreen
- Watering - Keep soil evenly moist, but not soggy.
- Water Amount Used -
4 1/4" Pot = 1/2 cup of water
5" Pot = 3/4 cup of water
6 1/2" Pot = 1 1/4 cups of water
8" Pot = 2 3/4 cups of water
10" Pot = 5 cups of water
- Fertilizing - Fertilize monthly

Detailed Care

Your Lemon Cypress was grown in a plastic pot. Depending on the item, it may then have been transplanted into a decorative pot before sale or simply "dropped" into a container while still in the plastic pot. To create a Topiary shape, a plant that has reached the appropriate size is selected and hand-trimmed to achieve the desired shape. It is then left to grow some more and once again hand-trimmed to refine the shape once there is enough new growth. This process may occur several times before a plant is ready for sale.

The brilliant chartreuse green color of your Lemon Cypress is primarily due to two factors. The first is that it was grown in a very bright greenhouse, not in full sun outdoors. The second and probably more important factor is that the current growth on the plant is "juvenile", meaning that the leaves and growth habit of this "young tree" is different from the growth on an older, or mature, tree. Over time the new leaves and branches of your Lemon Cypress will slowly change from juvenile to mature growth. The mature growth on a Lemon Cypress is yellow and dark green and less feathery than the juvenile growth. You can keep your Lemon Cypress in juvenile form by repeatedly pruning it.



WATERING

1. Let the top of the soil dry out slightly before watering; check frequently, especially if kept in a hot, dry spot. Lemon Cypress like to be kept evenly moist, but not soggy.
2. When watering, use the recommended amount of water for your pot size (See Quick Reference Guide) poured directly on the soil. In order not to damage your furniture, countertop or floor, place your Lemon Cypress in a saucer, bowl or sink when watering. Allow the water to drain for 5 minutes. Do not allow the soil to sit in water for any more than 5 minutes or damage to the roots may occur. Avoid continuous use of softened water as the sodium in it can build up to damaging levels in the soil.
3. Sprinkling or misting the leaves with water once per week is also beneficial to keeping your plant looking good and preventing insect pests.
4. Fertilize lightly with a complete, quality fertilizer once a month if your plant is actively growing. Avoid over-fertilizing...a little is good but a lot is not!

PLACEMENT OF YOUR LEMON CYPRESS

If you wish to keep your plant indoors, choose a spot with lots of natural light like near a north, south or east facing window. West facing windows tend to have too much direct afternoon sun so avoid placing your plant directly next to one. Artificial lights (e.g. lamps) do not provide enough light to keep Lemon Cypress thriving. A location that is near a window or door that is frequently open is beneficial to keeping your plant healthy also. For best results, after 1 or 2 weeks of being inside your Lemon Cypress would like a 1 to 2 week "vacation" outside on a covered porch or patio (please read the outdoor placement section in the next paragraph), especially during the non-winter months. This will help it to resume active growing and rebuild reserves used up while indoors.

If you wish to keep your Lemon Cypress outdoors, any spot that does not receive direct afternoon sun should suffice. A sheltered porch or patio is a good place. The juvenile growth of Lemon Cypress prefer indirect sunlight; mature growth of Lemon Cypress needs full sun. Your plant was grown in a slightly shaded greenhouse and is not acclimated to full sun. If you wish to place your plant in full afternoon sun it must be slowly acclimated by keeping it in full sun for brief but lengthening periods each day until it is fully acclimated. Keep in mind that if kept in full sun and in its pot you will need to check to see if it needs to be watered every day. Also, if kept in a pot your plant must be protected from freezing temperatures as they will damage its root system. If you live in USDA Zone 7 to 10 you can safely plant your plant in the ground without damage.

Lemon Cypress Detail Care Instructions



PEST PROTECTION

Lemon Cypress is typically not susceptible to insect pests. It is a good idea, just to be sure, to sprinkle the leaves and stems with clean water once a week. During the summer when insects are most active it is a good idea to give it a good rinsing under the faucet or hose every other week. Care should be taken, however, avoid getting water into the soil as this may cause overwatering. Only water the soil when the plant needs to be watered!

If, despite your best efforts, insects do manage to become established, you may spray your Lemon Cypress with most any store-bought insecticide that is labeled to control them.

Lemon Cypress may also suffer from certain fungal diseases, especially botrytis or root rot. Most fungal diseases are prevalent in high humidity, especially when there is a lack of air movement around the plant. You may find botrytis on your plant during or just after unpacking it from the shipping carton. If you see brownish spots surrounded by fluffy "mold" on your plant, simply trim off the infected area and place it in a well-ventilated area or preferably outdoors. You may also wish to spray it with a fungicide just to make sure you have gotten rid of it. When sprinkling/misting your plant always do it in the morning or during the heat of the day while there is still time for the water to evaporate from the leaves. Fungal root rot is typically caused by over-watering or over-fertilizing or a combination of the two. Both of these cause the plant to become weakened and thus susceptible to attack by the fungus.

KEEPING YOUR LEMON CYPRESS LOOKING GOOD

Over time the branches on your Lemon Cypress are likely to grow. It is entirely a personal choice of what to do with this growth. Some people prefer to keep the plant looking as it did upon arrival by trimming off unwanted growth. Others would prefer to enlarge their plant by trimming this growth further out. If a stem happens to die-off, simply cut it off where it has begun to die and wait for the plant to grow into the empty area. Often when pruning Lemon Cypress, the tips that have been trimmed will turn brown. This is normal and will be hidden by the new growth that will shortly emerge. As described earlier, regularly pruning your Lemon Cypress will keep its new growth in the more desirable juvenile form.

REPOTTING

Your Lemon Cypress can remain in its original pot or you may re-pot it to a larger or more decorative pot if you like. Natural terra cotta pots are a good choice as they promote healthy roots, although you must check the moisture level of the soil more frequently since they dry out faster. No matter which pot you choose to use, it MUST have at least one good sized hole on the bottom to allow the excess irrigation water to drain out! Use the highest quality soil mix you can find that has good drainage properties (a coarse mix with large particle sizes rather than a fine/compact mix). When transplanting do not compress the soil, keep it loose and fluffy for best rooting results and do not disturb the original root ball too much if possible. After transplanting, check the moisture level very carefully as it is very easy to over or under water a newly transplanted plant. You must check the moisture level of the original root ball and water only when it is slightly dry to the touch. Only transplant a healthy, growing plant...weak plants tend to die upon transplanting!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I plant my Lemon Cypress outside?

Yes, if you live in an area in USDA Zones 7 to 10. They need mostly full sun and prefer well drained soil. Keep in mind your plant was grown in a slightly shaded greenhouse and is not acclimated to full sun. If you wish to plant it in full afternoon sun it must be slowly acclimated by keeping it in full sun for brief but lengthening periods each day until it is fully acclimated or it will get sunburned and potentially die.

How big will my Lemon Cypress get?

That depends on a few things. If planted in the ground it may grow up to about 15 feet tall and 6 feet wide. If kept in pots, however, it is best to keep your Lemon Cypress to manageable sizes. You don't want to let it get too big in proportion to the pot because it may need to be watered every day and the slightest bit of air movement could topple it over!

What are the brownish spots with fluffy "mold" on them?

The fungal disease botrytis is the most likely answer. Often found during or shortly after unpacking or if kept in an area that is too moist or humid. Clip off the infected parts and keep the plant in a well ventilated area with plenty of air movement. Treating the plant with a suitable fungicide is also a good idea to prevent future infections.

How do I water my Lemon Cypress?

Use clean water poured directly and carefully onto the soil in the pot. Be sure to remove your Lemon Cypress from any furniture etc. when watering if you do not have it placed in a saucer as the water that drains may damage your furniture.

How often do I need to fertilize my Lemon Cypress?

If your Lemon Cypress is growing, lightly fertilize it once a month. Often in the winter you may not need to give it any fertilizer until it starts to grow again in the spring.

Can I place my Lemon Cypress in full sunlight?

No. Your topiary was grown in a lightly shaded greenhouse and can't tolerate full afternoon sun. Affected leaves will turn brown and crispy very quickly. Direct morning sun is beneficial however.

What do I do if the branches on my Lemon Cypress grow too long?

You may either trim off unwanted growth near its original size or make your plant larger by trimming further out. You can make your plant look how you would like it!