**Cupressaceae** Cryptomeria

**Cryptomeria japonica**

**Japanese cedar**

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**Height**
15 - 20 (40) m, fast growing

**Crown**
pyramidal, later broad pyramidal, half-open crown

**Bark and branches**
thick reddish brown bark, peeling off in long strips

**Leaf**
needles, sickle-shaped, dark green, 0.6 - 1.2 cm, evergreen

**Flowers**
unremarkable

**Fruits**
spherical cone with spiked seed scales, 1.5 - 3 cm

**Spines/thorns**
one

**Toxicity**
non-toxic (usually)

**Soil type**
well-permeable, moist, acidic

**Paving**
tolerates no paving

**Winter hardiness**
6b (-20.5 to -17.8 °C)

**Wind resistance**
moderate

**Wind / frost / salt**
resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6)

**Application**
avenues and broad streets, parks, theme parks, cemeteries, large gardens, windbreaks

**Type/shape**
clearstem conifer, specimen conifer

**Origin**
Central and Southern China, Japan

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Decorative, quickly growing tree with a straight, vertical, relatively slender trunk and a pyramidal growth habit. At a later stage the tree becomes broad pyramidal to irregular. The tree grows to an approximate height of 20 m and width of 10 m. The soft reddish brown bark is thick and peels off in long, thin strips. These are used for roof-covering in the area where the tree originally grew. At first, the branches grow horizontally, and later more upwards. The sickle-shaped, dark green needles grow in 5 spirals around the twig. In the winter, they turn bluish green to violet. Young specimens are sensitive to frost during harsh winters; older specimens are very hardy against frost. Heavy snowfall can cause branches to break. Does not tolerate harsh, dry wind well. There are many known cultivars of C. japonica, only about ten of which are generally cultivated. These differ from each other in terms of manner of growth, needle colour and texture.