

Chamaecyparis thyoides

[Synonyms : *Chamaecyparis henryae*, *Chamaecyparis sphaeroidea*, *Chamaecyparis thyoides* var. *andelyensis*, *Chamaecyparis thyoides* var. *henryae*, *Chamaecyparis thyoides* var. *variegata*, *Cupressus thyoides*, *Thuja sphaeroidea*]

ATLANTIC WHITE CEDAR is an evergreen coniferous tree. Native to eastern North America it has tiny purplish-black to red-brown cones.

It is also known as Cedar, Coast wide cedar, False cedar, Juniper, Post cedar, Southern white cedar, Swamp cedar, Swamp white cedar, Thuja-like cupressus, White cedar, Whitecedar falsecypress, White chamaecyparis, and White cypress.

The leaf sprays have an aromatic gingery fragrance when crushed. The flowers are pollinated by the wind. The wood repels insects and is resistant to decay.

In the States of New York and Virginia (United States) the tree is recorded as rare or endangered (due to over-harvesting).

Thyoides is made up of the genus name *Thuja* and Greek *-oides* (like) components meaning 'like plants in that genus'.

Some of the North American Indian Chippewa tribe used the leaves (or leaves and bark) to treat headaches and back ache.

Atlantic white cedar was first identified on the south-eastern North American seaboard in 1736. Its durable and slightly fragrant, light brown wood was once used to make charcoal, gunpowder and lamp-black – and it was also used extensively locally in the past for a wide range of items from boat building, railway sleepers, shingling, barrels, building interiors, telephone poles and fencing to smaller or household items such as woodenware, water tanks, duck decoys and pails. Today it can still be used for boatbuilding (particularly the decking or railings) and it is also chosen for piling, telephone poles, posts, garden furniture, fencing, furniture, interior panelling and, apparently, ice cream buckets.

Today the tree (and its cultivated varieties) is occasionally planted on wet sites on which it thrives as an ornamental feature – and in some areas locally it performs the duties of a Christmas tree.

In the animal world some authorities note that black bears use these trees to mark their territories and some kinds of deer browse on the aromatic foliage. The trees also offer nesting sites for various birds.