

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

## Lemon cypress Wilma: fine green foliage for a bright sheltered container

Wilma forms a narrow pale-green cone of fine aromatic branches. Sold as an indoor cypress, the young plant needs plenty of light and, in the longer term, a suitable sheltered container position. Permanently warm rooms are unsuitable for this woody plant.



AI-designed young Wilma based on the clean original. The offered 12 cm pot and about 35–40 cm total height provide the size reference. Example bright cool veranda setting; outer pot and room decoration not included.

### Grow with knowledge.

A collection for observation and reference. Detailed explanations to help you make care decisions suited to your plant and its position.

Issue October 2026

PLANT PORTRAIT

# Cupressus macrocarpa 'Wilma'

## Lemon cypress Wilma: fine green foliage for a bright sheltered container

Wilma forms a narrow pale-green cone of fine aromatic branches. Sold as an indoor cypress, the young plant needs plenty of light and, in the longer term, a suitable sheltered container position. Permanently warm rooms are unsuitable for this woody plant.



AI-designed young Wilma based on the clean original. The offered 12 cm pot and about 35–40 cm total height provide the size reference. Example bright cool veranda setting; outer pot and room decoration not included.

|                            |                                                                                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Botanical name             | Cupressus macrocarpa 'Wilma'                                                         |
| Delivery size              | 12 cm pot · total height about 35–40 cm                                              |
| Family                     | Cupressaceae – cypress family                                                        |
| Alternative botanical name | Hesperocyparis macrocarpa 'Wilma'                                                    |
| Selection background       | Compact selection of golden-green Goldcrest lemon cypress                            |
| Foliage                    | Evergreen, fine, yellow-green to fresh pale green                                    |
| Habit                      | Narrow upright cone                                                                  |
| Scent                      | Citrus-like when foliage is gently touched or crushed                                |
| Later size                 | RHS lists 1.5–2.5 m, much larger than the delivery size                              |
| Long-term cultivation      | Bright sheltered outdoor or suitable container position, not a permanent heated room |

## Care at a glance

Observe, check and adapt care to the position and season. This table provides guidance for everyday practice.

| Topic              | What to do                                                                           | Why it helps                                                                       |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Position           | Very bright and sheltered; adapt to sun gradually after arrival.                     | A woody plant needs light; sudden changes can stress fine young foliage.           |
| Water              | Check the rootball regularly and distribute water evenly when moisture declines.     | The small pot has limited reserves, unlike older plants established in the ground. |
| Drainage           | Keep holes open and remove water from the outer pot.                                 | Waterlogging can damage roots and lead to rot.                                     |
| Substrate          | Stable well-drained container soil with suitable mineral components.                 | Water and air should reach the root zone without a persistently wet rootball.      |
| Container and feed | Move up appropriately when rootbound; feed moderately during growth by instructions. | An evergreen needs space and nutrition adapted to its pot.                         |
| Pruning            | Keep the natural cone, with light corrections only in green growth.                  | Cuts into old brown wood may leave permanently bare patches.                       |
| Winter             | Protect roots from frost and drying wind; check on frost-free days.                  | Evergreen foliage still uses water in the little exposed pot.                      |
| Checking           | Assess brown branches with moisture, frost, light and pests.                         | Similar colours have different causes: avoid blindly adding more.                  |

# Knowledge that grows

## A little cone of fine pale-green foliage

At a distance Wilma gives a calm green accent; close up there are many fine branches. Young yellow-green to pale-green foliage makes a dense cone with lively slightly irregular tips. The original shows a small nursery pot. Its upright structure fits a bright sheltered veranda or little container space near the house. Beside a low bowl it provides an appealing height difference. Lemon aroma is most noticeable when touching or crushing the foliage; there is no need to handle the branches constantly.

## Wilma among Monterey cypresses

*Cupressus macrocarpa* is Monterey cypress from the Californian coast and belongs to Cupressaceae. Some sources place it in *Hesperocyparis*. Wilma is a more compact selection of golden-green Goldcrest; Goldcrest Wilma also appears in trade for this selection. Compact is comparative, not a fixed miniature size. Specialist descriptions go well beyond a metre; RHS gives 1.5–2.5 m. Later allow space both sideways and upwards. Its fine evergreen foliage offers interest beyond a short decorative season.

## Delivery starts in a small pot

The selected offer is one plant in a 12 cm nursery pot, about 35–40 cm total height including the pot. Any extra outer container and the scene surroundings are examples only. Support the pot when unpacking and release branches gently without pulling the tip. Check moisture and drainage. Small pots may dry faster in bright weather than later larger containers. After travel, assess actual rootball moisture first instead of leaving preventive water in an outer pot.

## The indoor-cypress trade name needs a considered position

Wilma is often sold as an indoor cypress, but a warm room is unsuitable long-term. A very bright sheltered container spot or cool veranda is more appropriate. Initially protect the new arrival from hard direct sun, then gradually adapt it to more sun. Outdoors shelter it from cold drying wind. Watch heat radiated by walls and moisture in the small pot too. For a short indoor stay choose the brightest cool position and plan suitable subsequent cultivation.

## Reliable moisture in a small root space

Check the container rootball regularly. Older plants cope better with dryness once established in the ground; that does not describe a freshly delivered little pot. Assess surface, weight and deeper rootball moisture. When moisture declines, water slowly and evenly, letting it leave the holes. Keeping foliage healthy does not mean leaving roots in standing water: check the outer pot after watering. Wind and sun increase consumption. Check in winter too, especially under a roof. Water carefully if needed on a frost-free day; a frozen rootball should receive no additional water.

## The container should follow the natural shape

Structured well-drained container soil supports the plant and keeps roots aerated. When roots become crowded, move to an appropriate size; increasing height also requires stability. During active development give moderate liquid feed by instructions, accounting for any feed already in the soil. Heavy reserves are unnecessary early on. The narrow cone needs no hard routine pruning. Correct lightly within green branches: many conifers regrow poorly from old brown wood. A planned long-term position avoids severely topping a plant that later becomes too large.

## Evergreen foliage needs winter attention too

Winter suitability depends on climate, position and root space. A small pot faces more frost and drying wind than an established garden plant. Protect container sides, leave drainage open and provide a cool sheltered position during severe frost. A dark heated room is no good replacement. Assess brown branches alongside moisture, preceding cold and light; pests may change their appearance too. Address the cause selectively rather than adding water, feed and hard pruning together. Healthy fresh growth provides better feedback on a suitable everyday position.

## Pictures and details

Images and descriptions from this portrait. Decorative items are not included in the offer.



AI-designed enlarged fine yellow-green branches based on the original; not a to-scale product image.



Unchanged offer original: young plant in a 12 cm pot, about 35-40 cm total height.

# Good to know

## What size is delivered?

A 12 cm pot and about 35–40 cm total height including the pot. Later growth can become much larger.

## Are Cupressus and Hesperocyparis two plants?

No: Monterey cypress may have either name depending on classification. Here they refer to Wilma, not two deliveries.

## Will Wilma always stay small?

Compact is relative to Goldcrest. Developed plants may exceed a metre; RHS lists 1.5–2.5 m.

## Can it stay permanently in a heated room?

That is poor long-term cultivation. Prefer a very bright sheltered container position and suitably cool winter conditions.

## Why protect it from sun on arrival?

Adapt gradually after transport. A sunny sheltered spot then suits container growth, while the small root volume still needs moisture checks.

## Does it tolerate drought?

Advice for older established plants does not apply to the little pot. Check regularly without leaving stagnant water.

## Can I prune into brown wood?

It is better to avoid it: regrowth is unreliable. Correct lightly within green shoots.

## Does it need winter water?

Check on frost-free days, especially under cover. Water if needed, never when the rootball is frozen.

## The matching offer

[View plant in the shop ↗](#)

Check the shop for the current price, availability and offer contents.

[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer