

Mexico, Guatemala

Common names: **English:** Mexican cypress.

Ecology: A fast-growing tree widely used in East and Southern Africa and grown in plantations in many areas; introduced to Uganda, 1,100-3,000 m. At higher altitudes the tree tends to be invasive.

Uses: Firewood, poles, posts, timber (furniture, construction), ornamental, shade, windbreak, live fence.

Description: An evergreen tree to 35 m with straight trunk, **generally conical** but irregular in shape, the branches hang down with branchlets in all directions. **BARK:** **red-brown with vertical grooves**, grey with age. **LEAVES:** dull blue-green, **the tiny leaves in 4 ranks, with spreading pointed tips**. **FRUIT:** male cones like fat tips to branchlets, producing clouds of yellow pollen dust; female cones ripen in two years, **rounded, 1.5 cm across**, brown, the cone scales with central, pointed projections. About 75 winged seeds are released from beneath the cone scales.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings.

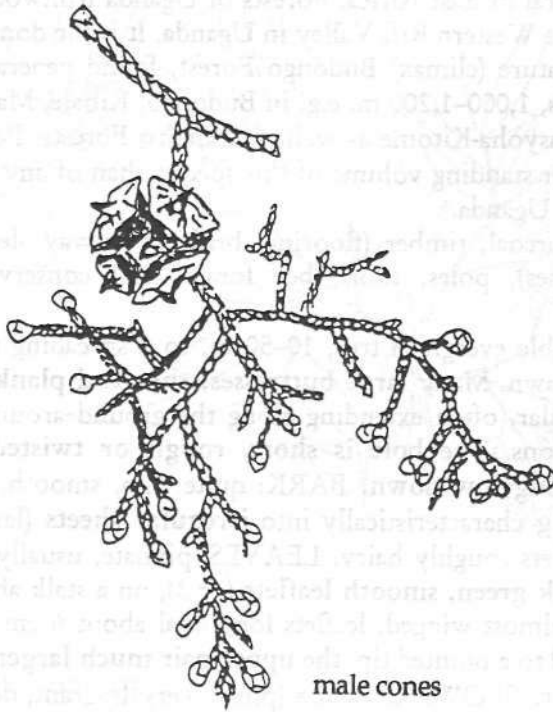
Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 160,000-290,000. Germination of good seed 30-40% in 10-20 days,

treatment: not necessary.

storage: seed can be stored for up to a year.

Management: Fast growing on good sites, moderate on poorer sites. Trimming as a hedge. Pruning of trees in woodlots to be used for timber.

Remarks: Can produce poles after 10 years, general purpose timber after 20 years. Not good for intercropping. From 1990 severely attacked by the cypress aphid: branches turn yellow, later dry out. However, some trees have recovered better than others possibly indicating genetic differences. In Uganda, this menace seems to have been less severe than in some neighbouring countries.



male cones

