

## *Cupressus arizonica*

## Cupressaceae

Mexico, Arizona

**English:** Arizona cypress

**Nyanja:** Saipuresi

**Senga:** Sapulesi

**Ecology:** This coniferous tree originates in the mountains of Arizona, and grows well with moderate rainfall in many parts of the world (1,000–2,800 m). It has been planted as an ornamental in Zambia in most urban areas and around institutions. It can be seen in Chipata and Katete Districts of Eastern Province. The tree will tolerate slightly saline soil.

**Uses:** Firewood, **timber**, poles, posts, **ornamental**, windbreak.

**Description:** An evergreen tree to 20 m, conical when young, the trunk straight, branches standing out. **BARK:** reddish–dark brown when mature; bark peeling off in thin plates. **LEAVES:** the tiny grey-green leaves cover the branchlets, each pointed. **CONES:** **shiny** and rounded, green to brown, 2.5 cm across with few cone-scales, each scale with a small “peg”; 90–120 seeds are set free from the cone as it dries. Cones remain several years on a tree.

**Propagation:** Seedlings.

**Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 88,000–200,000. Germinates in 13–30 days.

**treatment:** Not necessary.

**storage:** Stores up to 6 months.

**Management:** Pruning.

**Remarks:** During the dry season, this species is subject to severe aphid attack and therefore should be planted with caution. It is also susceptible to termites and catches fire easily. It will burn when still green. However, it is drought- and cold- resistant.

