

Bald Cypress

Taxodium distichum

The Cypress Family (Cupressaceae)

Basic Description: A large, deciduous, aquatic conifer with a swollen, ridged trunk at the base. The roots often send up cone-shaped knees surrounding the tree. Bald Cypress has a crown of widely spreading branches and red-brown to silver exfoliating bark.

Interesting Facts: The state tree of Louisiana, Bald Cypress is called the wood eternal because of the heartwood's resistance to decay. It has the largest trunk diameter (to over 17') of all eastern trees and is the longest living tree species in the eastern U.S. with oldest cypress recorded at 1,622 years.

Flower: Male and female flowers are borne separately on the same tree. Male flowers are drooping, tassel-like 4-6" long. Female flowers are inconspicuous and composed of several spirally arranged, overlapping scales.

Fruit: A round cone .75 - 1" wide; brown with thick fused wrinkled scales.

Wildlife Value: Attracts birds for cover, nesting and food. It is a larval host and nectar source for the Baldcypress Sphinx Moth.

Habitat: Wet sites such as edges of bayous and lakes. Also planted in many drier sites.

LEAF TYPE
NEEDLELIKE



POLLINATOR
WIND



WILDLIFE VALUE
MEDIUM

