

GYMNOSPERM TREES

Chamaecyparis thyoides

- Common Name: Atlantic White Cedar; Juniper
- Form: Large, straight overstory tree to 90 feet tall
- Leaves: Very small, scale-like, $\frac{1}{16}$ inch long; evergreen; opposite on small shoots, with a braided appearance; in cross section, leafy branches are flattened, as if pressed in a book
- Cones: Separate on the same tree (monoecious); male cones $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long, solitary at the tips of branches; female cones globose, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide, with fleshy scales; blue-green, ripening to dark brown; **July - October**
- Fruit: None; seeds in scaly, berrylike female cones
- Habitat: Wet or moist, acidic sites; creek and river banks; swamps
- Comments: This species has durable wood used for docks, boats and home construction. It is becoming rare in much of its native range due to overharvesting and is sparingly used as an ornamental.



Juniperus virginiana

- Common name: Eastern Redcedar
- Form: Evergreen conifer, up to 90 feet tall; reddish brown to brown, shredding bark.

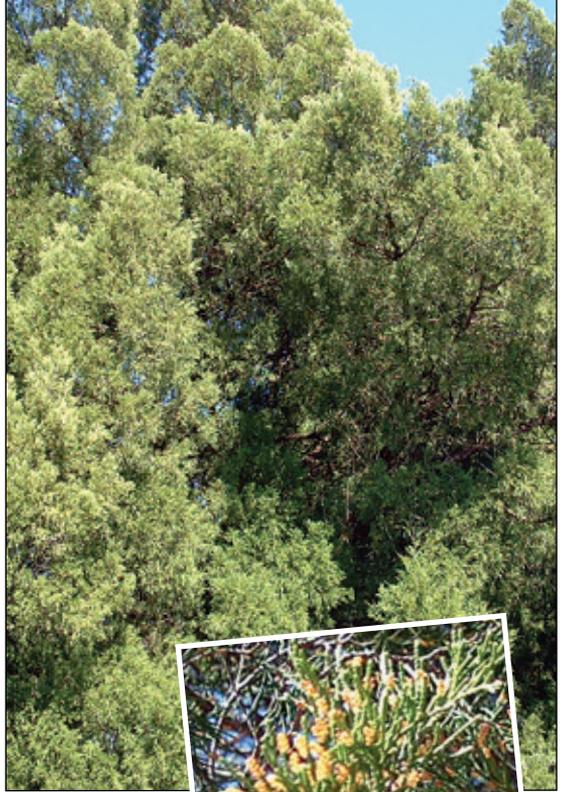
Juniperus virginiana
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Leaves: On mature trees, scalelike, 1/16 inch long, dark green, overlapping, appressed to stem; on young trees and stems awl-shaped, opposite or ternate; blue-green to green to yellow-green

Cones: On separate trees; females, ovoid, blue-green, berrylike; males, small, narrow, yellow-brown; pollination **January - March**

Fruit: None; seeds in berrylike female cones, round, dark blue, whitish covering; **October - November**

Habitat: Variety of soil types (moist to dry); middens, maritime forests, and homesteads



Pinus elliottii

Common name: Slash Pine

Form: Large coniferous tree, 100 - 120 feet tall; bark orange to purplish brown, furrowed and crosschecked with papery, scaly plates

Leaves: Needles 6 - 12 inches long in bundles of two or three; stiff, shiny, green

- Cones: Female (seed) cones reddish brown, shiny, up to 5 inches long with single prickle on scales; male cones purple, up to 3 inches long, up to ½ inch in diameter; pollen release **January - February**
- Fruit: None; seeds released from female cones; **October - November**
- Habitat: Flatwoods, thickets, bayheads
- Comment: The wood of the Slash Pine is used extensively in building because it is extremely hard and resistant to decay.



Pinus palustris

Common name: Longleaf Pine

Form: Large coniferous tree, 100 - 120 feet tall; bark orange to brown to gray and coarsely scaly

Leaves: Needles 8 - 19 inches long in bundles of three; dark green, shiny, stiff; in dense, spreading tufts at the ends of branches

Cones: Female (seed) cones dull brown at maturity, 5 - 10 inches long; mature in two years; pollen (male) cones, cylindrical, yellow-red; pollen release **March - April**.



Fruit: None; seeds released from female cone; **September - October**

Habitat: Commonly found in sandy soil

Comment: This pine is fire-resistant.





Taxodium ascendens

- Common name: Pond Cypress
- Form: Deciduous conifer, up to 60 feet tall
- Leaves: Linear or awl-like, small, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch long, held close to the twig; green to yellow-green turning coppery yellow in the fall
- Cones: Female (seed) cones nearly spherical, small, $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, at tips of branches; male (pollen) cones in long hanging panicles, 3 - 5 inches long; pollen release **March - April**
- Fruit: None; oval to nearly round female cone with peltate scales, blue-green turning brown at maturity, $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 inch in diameter; seeds shed **October - December**
- Habitat: Stream banks, bays, ponds, swamps
- Comment: The difference between pond and bald cypress is that the leaves of pond cypress point upwards.

Taxodium distichum

- Common name: Bald Cypress
- Form: Deciduous conifer, 100 - 120 feet tall
- Leaves: Alternate, linear, flat, 1/4 - 3/4 inches long, resembling feathery pinnately or bi-pinnately compound leaves; green to yellow-green
- Cones: Female (seed) cones,



nearly spherical, 3/4 - 1 inch in diameter near tips of branches; male (pollen) cones in long hanging panicles 4 - 5 1/2 inches long; *March - April*

- Fruit: None; oval to round female cones with peltate scales, green turning brown at maturity, 3/4 - 1 inch in diameter; seeds shed *October - December*

Habitat: Stream banks, bays, ponds, swamps

Comment: Cypress trees have two major adaptations that help them live in wet habitats: buttress (swollen) bases and "knees."