

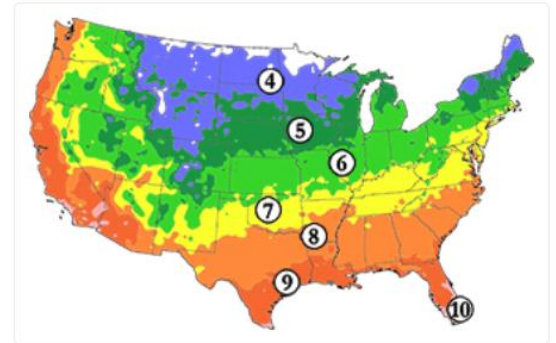


Bald Cypress



The baldcypress is the classic tree of southern swamps. To the surprise of many, it also does quite well when planted in the right soil in yards or along streets and is a beautiful specimen tree. It has been grown successfully in cities as far north as Milwaukee and on dry Texas hills.

- Provides majestic orange-red fall color
- Adapts to both wet and dry conditions
- Makes a great urban tree
- Is classified as a deciduous conifer, meaning it will lose its needles in the fall



The Baldcypress Grows in zones 4 - 10

Your Tree's Personality

Shape
Pyramidal

Growth Speed
Medium

Scientific Name
Taxodium distichum

Mature Height
50' - 70'

Sun Preference
Full Sun

Soil Preference
Acidic, Clay, Drought, Loamy, Moist, Sandy, Silty Loam, Well Drained, Wet

Wildlife Value

Baldcypress form characteristic groves in swampy areas that support complex and variable ecosystems and are used by many wildlife species.

History/Lore

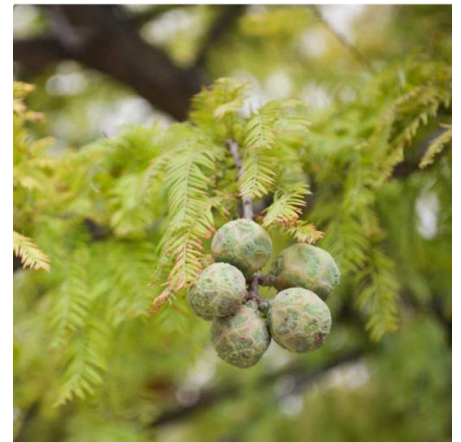
Baldcypress trees are native from Maryland along the eastern coast to Texas and as far west as the Mississippi valley. The first scientific reference to the species was made in 1640. The origin of the common name, however, seems to have been lost to time. No one is sure why it is called "bald" (though many guesses have been made).

This tree has inspired much poetry and prose over the centuries due to its melancholy and mysterious appearance. Longfellow refers to its "towering and tenebrous boughs" that "waved like banners that hang on the walls of ancient cathedrals" in his 1847 poem, *Evangeline*. Naturalist John Muir in his book *Thousand-Mile Walk* refers to "the dark, mysterious cypress woods which cover everything" and states that "night is coming on and I am filled with indescribable loneliness."

It is the state tree of Louisiana.

This tree:

- Is a deciduous conifer.
- Features short needles arranged in pairs along slender branchlets. Their coloring ranges from yellow-green in spring to soft green in summer to reddish- or orangish-brown in autumn.
- Yields cones that appear as little globes approximately 1" in length that contain triangular seeds and are attractive to wildlife.
- Grows in a pyramidal shape.
- Adapts well to wet and dry conditions.
- Develops "cypress knees" only in wet conditions.



The baldcypress tree is the classic tree of southern swamps. There, in its native habitat, it displays a peculiar habit of raising conical "knees" from its roots. The function of these growths is something of a mystery, although some believe it is a way to help the roots get oxygen. This tree dwells in swamps because it out-competes most other trees on such sites.

To the surprise of many, the baldcypress does quite well when planted in the right soil in yards or along streets and is a beautiful specimen tree. It has been grown successfully in cities as far north as Milwaukee and on dry Texas hills.

This is a shade tree, featuring a spreading canopy capable of blocking sunlight.

