

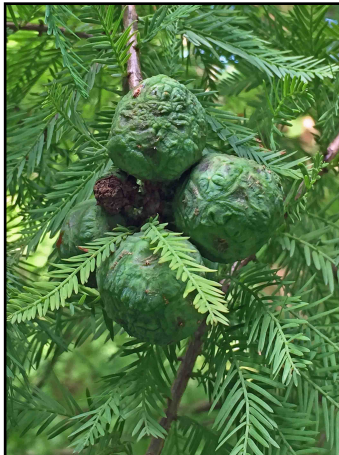

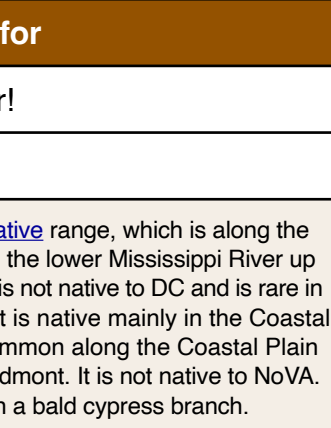
Taxodium distichum

Bald Cypress, Baldcypress

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

Found along wet stream banks, swamps, and river bottoms, Bald Cypress* has a root system, which often produces irregular structures called “[knees](#)” that rise above the ground or water’s surface. This conifer is referred to as “bald” since it is deciduous, losing its foliage in the winter.



Tree	Tree, Fruit (Jul/Oct), Bark,** Fall Foliage, Knees			
Height: 50–70 feet				
Spread: 20–35 feet				
Bloom Color: Brown				
Characteristics				
Long-lived, deciduous conifer with pyramidal to conical shape and trunk fluted at the base				
Alternate , whorled , soft, needle-like yellow-green leaves arranged like feathers				
Brown, tassel-like, paniculed , male flowers and round, green female flowers at branch tips Mar–Apr				
Spherical, leathery, green cones (galbuli), ripen to brown from October to December and shatter into irregular seeds				
Foliage turns orange, cinnamon, copper in fall				
Fissured red-brown-gray bark with stringy texture				
Attributes			Excellent Replacement for	
Tolerates clay soil , wet soil, heat, strong winds, and air pollution			Trees that don't like water!	
No serious pests or diseases; deer rarely-to-seldom severely damage				
Provides food for waterfowl and squirrels and nesting sites for Yellow-Throated Warbler, Bald Eagle, Pileated Woodpecker, Osprey, and herons				
Growing and Maintenance Tips				
Soil Requirements : Acidic				
Light Requirements : Sun, Partial Shade				
Water Requirements : Moist, Wet				
Use as ornamental lawn tree for large landscapes or in wet areas or in rain gardens (> 150 sq. feet)				
Hardiness : USDA Zones 4a–9b	<p>*It is often planted outside of its native range, which is along the southeastern and Gulf coasts and the lower Mississippi River up to IL. In the Mid-Atlantic Region, it is not native to DC and is rare in the DE Coastal Plain and in PA. It is native mainly in the Coastal Plain of MD. In VA, it is locally common along the Coastal Plain and rare in the outer southern Piedmont. It is not native to NoVA.</p> <p>**An eastern gray squirrel rests on a bald cypress branch.</p>			
developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria				

Images by Elaine Mills, Robert Kline (sign), and Mary Free (October fruit, Fairlington, VA and bark) Glencarlyn Garden, National Arboretum, and (knees) Meadowlark Botanical Gardens



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