**Bald Cypress**

Taxodium distichum

Bald Cypress, is a long-lived, pyramidal conifer (cone-bearing tree).  Old trees develop a wide, spreading base that narrows up the trunk with diameters as thick as 3-6'.  It is one of the longest living trees in the world and its rings hold years of climate data. The bald cypress is a low maintenance tree with easy fall cleanup. It has a large taproot and is slightly salt tolerant. The roots grow knobby, conical "knees" that rise up from the ground.

**Wildlife Value**: Wood ducks eat the seeds, as well as wild turkey, evening grosbeak, squirrels, waterfowl, and wading birds. Older trees form natural hollows and catamites that are used as cover by wildlife. Cyprus domes provide cover and breeding sites for frogs, toads, salamanders, and catfish. Spanish moss is often found hanging on the branches and provides food for Yellow-throated warblers.

**Exposure:** full sun to part shade

**Soil:** prefers moist, acidic, sandy soils but tolerates a wide range of soil conditions; average, medium to wet, moisture-retentive, reasonably well-drained soils, to wet soils in standing water. This species has been known to tolerate flooded conditions for extended periods of time.

**Height:** 100-120 feet

**Zone:** 4a-9a It is native to southern swamps, bayous and rivers, primarily being found in coastal areas from Maryland to Texas and in the lower Mississippi River valley to as far north as the southeast corner of Missouri. In the deep South, it is a familiar sight growing directly in swampy water, often in large stands, with its branches heavily draped with Spanish moss.

**Habit:** Although it looks like a needled evergreen (same family as redwoods) in summer, it is deciduous ("bald" as the common name suggests).

**Insects, Diseases, or Other Plant Problems:**Twig blight is an occasional disease pest. Chlorosis often occurs in alkaline soils.

**Care:** Low maintenance.

For information about gardening or the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Pender County, contact Tiffanee Boone, Pender County Horticulture & Local Food Agent at tiffanee\_boone@ncsu.edu or 910-259-1235.

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