

bald cypress

Taxodium distichum

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Coniferophyta
Class: Pinopsida
Order: Pinales
Family: Cupressaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

FEATURES

The bald cypress tree may grow to nearly 100 feet tall. Some Illinois bald cypress trees are more than 1,000 years old. This tree sometimes produces "knees" in or near the water. "Knees" are structures that grow from the roots to the water's surface. The pale, red-brown bark is scaly. Leaves are yellow-green needles that may be up to three-fourths inch long. Leaves fall off the tree in autumn. Fruits are spherical, brown to green, wrinkled cones.

BEHAVIORS

The bald cypress tree grows in swamps and wet areas. This tree flowers from September through November.

ILLINOIS RANGE







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knees

Aquatic Habitats

swamps

Woodland Habitats

southern Illinois lowlands

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none