



Bald cypress

Season:

The bald cypress is deciduous, which means it sheds its leaves each year, beginning in October/November to February/March, depending on location. It has a tiny purple bloom in April. By August the bald cypress fruit is fully developed.

Visitor Education Center (VEC)

About Us

The Visitor Education Center (VEC) at the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery is the first and only facility of its kind in Mississippi. It is owned and operated by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

In addition to the native habitat area, the VEC features a 10,000 gallon aquarium, interactive exhibits, displays, artifacts, fishing rodeo pond, gift shop and gallery, and the World Record White Crappie. All of these elements serve as entertaining and engaging learning experiences for all visitors.

The VEC promotes the sport of freshwater fishing in Mississippi, and encourages the conservation and stewardship of aquatic resources. The facility offers guided and self-guided tours along with a myriad of programs and workshops for the public.



Bald cypress leaves

MISSISSIPPI NATIVE: BALD CYPRESS

(Taxodium distichum)

**NMFH Visitor
Education Center**

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Fruit

Description:

This tree is an aquatic, deciduous conifer. The trunks are enlarged at the base, and frequently, “knees” are seen projecting from the ground around the tree. Knees develop mostly in poorly drained areas.

It has widely spreading branches and slender, sage-green leaves, which resemble feathers. Leaves turn a copper color before falling. The bark is red-brown to silver in color

Size:

This plant grows 50 to 75 feet tall. Bald cypress can be anywhere from 3 to 6 feet in diameter.

Other Names:

Southern Bald Cypress, Deciduous Cypress, Gulf Cypress, and Swamp Cypress

Habitat/Planting Tips:

Bald cypress trees are typically found growing in saturated soils, swamps, and stream banks, growing naturally in floodplains, river channels, and millponds.

For better growth, plant trees in moist, well-drained soil in full sun.



Bark

Interesting Facts:

Bald cypress wood is called the “eternal wood” because the heartwood is very resistant to decay.



Information Sources: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, MSU Extension, Clemson.edu, USDA, and VEC Staff. Pictures taken at the VEC (Wiggins, E.J.); property of MDWFP.