

Bald cypress

Taxodium distichum

Bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) also called swamp cypress, ornamental and timber conifer family are native to swampy areas of southern North America. The wood of bald cypress is valued for its water-resistance and is known as pecky, or peggy, cypress in the lumber trade when it contains small, attractive holes caused by a fungus.

The Bald cypress leaves are linear or needle like $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " long spirally or alternately arranged deciduous smallest twigs that fall off in autumn with needles attached. Small twigs are attached needles feather – like yellow green in summer turning rust covered in fall. Branch-end or terminal twigs have buds that are not deciduous lateral or side twigs with needles still attached. Buds small round with several overlapping scales.

Flowers/ Fruit: Monoecious Fruit a woody cone round $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1- $\frac{1}{3}$ " diameter brown 9 to 15 wrinkled 4 sided woody scales that break away when mature, they mature in one year, seeds are small and 3 winged. The Bald cypress bark is thin and scaly to fibrous red and brown to gray. The wood is light to dark brown very durable and rot resistant; used for construction, siding, shingles, etc.

The Bald cypress is a very interesting, large, deciduous conifer that has attractive, feathery foliage in summer, nice fall color, interesting shape and texture year round. The Bald cypress not common in Utah but they do well in Utah in a wide variety of soil conditions.

Bald cypress can be found lining 11th Avenue on the north side of West – 13 in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

