

Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)

The Bald Cypress is a deciduous conifer that can grow 50 - 75 feet tall with a spread of 20 – 30 feet and have been known to live for over 600 years. It is slender and conical in youth, becoming flat-topped in very old age. Sage-green leaves, which resemble feathers, turn copper-colored before falling. A tapering trunk is slightly buttressed at the swollen base and the exfoliating bark is red-brown to silver.

Called the "wood eternal" because its heartwood is resistant to decay, Bald Cypress is used for heavy construction, including docks, warehouses, boats, bridges, as well as general millwork and interior trim. The trees are planted as ornamentals northward in colder climates and in drier soils. Easily seen in Big Cypress National Preserve near Naples, Florida, as well as in appropriate conditions throughout the rest of its natural range, which comprises much of southeastern North America from Delaware south to Florida, west along the coast to eastern Oklahoma and Central Texas, with populations also following the Mississippi River drainage as far north as Illinois and Indiana, and continuing further south through Mexico to Guatemala.

The Bald Cypress will only be used in the urban forest in very ideal situations. It is a very interesting and durable tree and will be used here in New Albany whenever possible.