

Large Tree (over 30')
Evergreen
Native
Map #42

Eastern Redcedar
(*Juniperus virginiana*)
Family: Cupressaceae



Leaves: overlapping scale-like leaves, juvenile awl-like leaves often present, summer color - blue-green, winter color – purplish brown to russet brown; when crushed emit cedar odor.

Stems: dark rusty brown.

Bark: silver gray with cinnamon brown underbark; exfoliates in long strips.

Flowers: separate male and female plants (dioecious); male – yellow brown conelets; female – green .

Fruits: ovoid, ¼ inch or less diameter, with a whitish “bloom” which makes them appear blue.

Habit: pyramidal but much variation among the many cultivars.

Culture: Adaptable. Tolerates poor dry soils. Full sun. Good cover, food and nesting sites for wildlife. Pests—cedar apple/ hawthorn rust. The redcedar is the host for the telial gall phase. Susceptibility varies among the cultivars.

Miscellaneous: The species has a huge native range to include the upper 2/3rds of the U.S. and all of Canada. It grows at very high altitudes in areas of very low rainfall and high heat. The species is seldom sold but there are many worthwhile cultivars.

Cultivars: ‘Canaertii’ - an irregular, pyramidal cultivar with unique tufts of foliage along the branches. Is slow-growing and a heavy fruiter. Quite susceptible to rust disease. ‘Gray Owl’ - a spreading selection that is probably a hybrid of *J. virginiana* and a parent of unknown origin. Has silver-gray foliage and an abundance of attractive fruits in fall and winter. Grows to 3’ by 6’. ‘Hilli’ - a dense upright selection that turns purple-plum in winter.



Foliage darkens in winter



'Canaertii'



'Gray Owl'



'Hillii'



Plum purple in winter

Credits: Photos from: www.midwestlandscapeplants.org and various other .edu websites unless noted. Text from: "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants" by Michael Dirr; "Tree Identification Characteristics (abridged)" from the University of Illinois Extension; www.midwestlandscapeplants.org; and misc. other sources. This publication may not be sold except to cover the cost of reproduction when used as part of an educational program of the University of Wisconsin-Extension.