

Eastern Red Cedar



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST

ECO-SERVICE CARDS

EASTERN REDCEDAR

Juniperus virginiana L.

FAMILY: Cupressaceae

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



SIZE: medium conifer, 40 - 60 feet tall



LEAF: tiny and scale-like (pressed against the branch); evergreen



CONES: male and female cones are on separate trees; conelets are small, green and mature into a small, round, bluish cone like a berry



BARK: reddish brown with long, thin fiber-like strips



Where to Look

Eastern Redcedar is fairly abundant in Georgia in sunny locations both dry and moist. It is often seen in abandoned fields and along fence lines.

Importance to Humans

The wood is used for fences and outdoor furniture. It has a strong scent and is also used in closets and chests to repel moths. Redcedars are grown as Christmas trees and can be seen in the home landscape.

Importance to Wildlife

Many mammals and birds, including cedar waxwing, eat the berry-like fruits. The dense foliage also provides good cover as well as nesting sites.