



Taxodium distichum (L.) Rich

Family: Cupressaceae

Common names: Bald cypress



Description:

Taxodium Distichum is a deciduous tree native to eastern USA. It usually reaches 35-40 m in height and 3.8-5.7 m in girth. The bark is reddish brown in colour and peels off in long strips. Leaves are spirally arranged in 2 ranks owing to a twist near the base and are short, pointed, scale like on the persistent branches. The male and female flowers appear on the tree in the spring; male flowers in slender, purplish, tassel like clusters with stalk consisting of 6-8 stamens; female flowers are scattered, consisting of numerous overlapping bracts, each bearing two ovules. Cones are globular or obovate and are resinous.

Utilization:

Mostly cultivated as an ornamental tree. Wood has a multitude of uses and is well known for its ability to resist decay. The seeds are important food for many birds and wood is suitable for construction of greenhouses, boats, ships, water tanks, fencing, furniture, etc. The seeds and bark also contain some condensed type tannins (Strobel et. al, 1996).

Part	Uses
Dry wood	ability to resist decay
seeds	food for many birds
Wood	Furniture

References:

Li J.Y, Strobel G, Sidhu R, Hess W.M, Ford E.J; (1996) Endophytic taxol-producing fungi from bald cypress, *Taxodium distichum*, *Microbiology*, 142.8, 2223-2226.