

# Red Cedar

(*Juniperus virginiana*)



Southern Red Cedar

## Instant ID

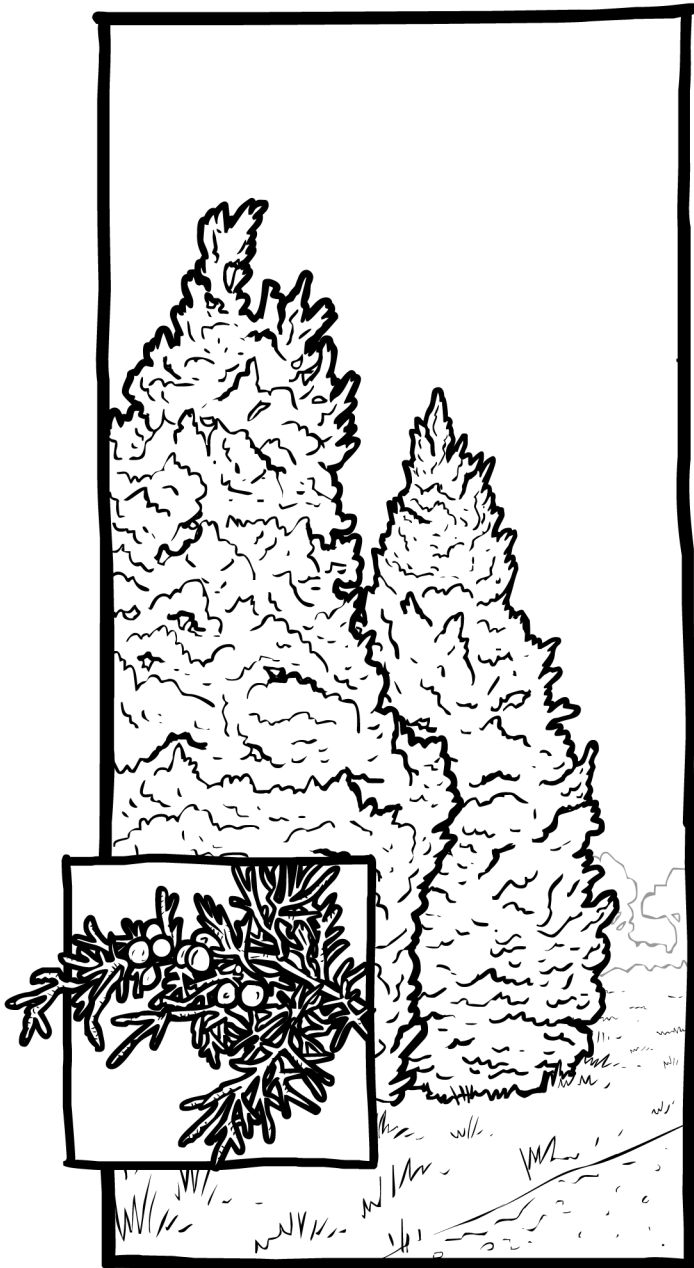
- A cedar-like juniper which takes a conical shape when freestanding
- It often has a flattened top and a scrubby appearance when growing in a natural setting
- Branches have thick, scaly leaves in a fernlike pattern
- Its bark is flaky and red-brown
- Berrylike cones are blue-black, yet appear lighter due to a waxy coating
- Rarely grows to 40 feet tall with a width of 25 feet

## Native Niches

- Found on the coastal plain from North Carolina to Louisiana
- In Florida it is found north of Sarasota County
- Often seen in well drained soils typical of uplands and beaches

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## Plant Particulars

- Its wood naturally repels insects and is rot resistant
- Was historically heavily harvested for pencil wood, chests and fence posts
- Few things grow under it because its leaves acidify the soil and dense branches block sunlight
- Seeds eaten and deposited by birds are 3 times more likely to germinate (become a plant)
- Sometimes considered two subspecies: eastern red cedar and southern red cedar
- Baton Rouge, LA, was named after the red color of its wood

## Population Protection

- Once abundant in places like Cedar Key, FL, it has been heavily harvested in many regions
- It is a great plant for xeriscaping (landscaping requiring little to no watering)

