

# 11. Eastern Red Cedar

Dr. Philip C. Walker  
Memorial  
Botanical Trail

Native in 37 states, Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) is one of the most widely distributed eastern conifer. Red cedar is highly resistant to extremes of drought, heat and cold. Generally, trees are medium sized with sharp-pointed and round, scale-like needles. The heartwood is reddish and the berries are purple to vivid blue in color. The light, durable wood of red cedar is widely used for cedar chests, cabinets, lead pencils, fuel and fence posts. The fruits serve as a source of food for over 50 species of birds including the ring-necked pheasant and the mourning dove. Opossum also feed on the fruits.



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