



EASTERN REDCEDAR *Juniperus virginiana* L.



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Eastern redcedar is not common in Maine. It grows on poor soils, gravelly slopes, rocky ridges and on moist, sandy ground. It is found intermittently in southern Maine and in Bridgton, Porter, Denmark and West Gardiner. It gets the name “redcedar” from the color of the heartwood.

It is variable in its habit. Young trees have slender horizontal branches and a narrow, compact, conical head. The crown of old trees becomes broad and rounded. In Maine, trees attain a diameter of 8–12 inches, and a height of 30 feet.





The **bark** on the trunk is light brown, tinged with red; it separates into long, narrow shreds on old trees.

The **leaves** are scale-like, overlapping, about 1/16 inch long, dark green, and remain on the tree 5–6 years, growing hard and woody the third season. Branchlets appear square in cross section. Current growth and vigorous shoots contain sharp-pointed, awl-shaped leaves—the so-called “juvenile” growth.

The **fruit** is berry-like, globose, with 1–2 seeds, pale green at first, dark blue when ripe, and is about the size of a small pea.

The **wood** is brittle, fine-grained, light, easily worked, durable, and very aromatic. The heartwood is a dull red. It is valuable for fence posts and paneling for moth-proof closets, but in Maine it is not sufficiently plentiful to be of commercial importance. The shavings are used as bedding for pets.

Eastern redcedar invades old pastureland and quickly dies out when other trees begin to shade it.



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Eastern Redcedar Circumference: 62" Height: 53' Crown Spread: 38' Location: Hebron

