

EASTERN REDCEDAR

[Redcedar can be one word or two depending on the field guide]

Juniperus virginiana

A juniper of the Cypress family, the native Eastern Redcedar is a small to medium sized narrowly conical ever-green tree. It is fast growing and can be 20' -50' tall. It is a favorite in country cemeteries, where the trees stand like fingers pointing to the heavens. Many of the non-native junipers can be low, broad, rounded bushes. The species is commonly known for its fragrant wood. The wood is used in linings for mothproofing chests and closets. It is dense and usually single stemmed. The leaves are green to blue-green, very small, pointed, and closely pressed to the shoot. Sometimes they are reddish brown in winter. The 1/8" seed cones are round, bluish, glaucous, berrylike, maturing in 1 year. The berries appear over the winter months. The red-brown bark exfoliates in vertical thin strips.

In addition to the Arbor Day tree planting in April 2009, sixteen Eastern Redcedar trees were planted on Baber Day, 2009 along the fence line of the neighboring homes that front Sixteen Street and McBarron Street (the side alley off 16th Street). The trees were planted along the barren fence line to provide green color and natural plantings, and as a nice back drop and privacy to the neighbors. Because of extremely dry fall weather and a harsh winter, the sixteen Redcedar had to be replaced in 2010. Three have since died, and 1 seems stunted, but the remainder are well.

