

Leaves, Limbs, Needles and Boughs

by Fred D. Opperman

This month's selection, I haven't seen on too many golf courses. But for those of you who would like to see fine examples of this majestic tree, visit Glen View Club, Ridgemoor C.C. or Westmoreland C.C. These three clubs all have *Taxodium distichum* (taks-o'di-um dis'ti-kum) or commonly known as Baldcypress. This deciduous conifer can be grown in wet areas. You should highly consider the Baldcypress when confronted with what to plant where the area is wet and have a problem in choosing a plant.

Leaves: Spirally arranged on the branchlets, 2-ranked on the deciduous shoots, linear-lanceolate, apiculate, 1/3 to 3/4" long, 1/16 to 1/12" wide, bright yellow green in the spring, soft sage green in summer, rich brown in the fall.

Buds: Alternate, near tip of stem rounded, with overlapping, sharp pointed scales; smaller lateral buds also present and from them leafy budless branches arise which fall in autumn.



Size: 50 to 70' high by 20 to 30' wide, can grow to 100' and more.

Habit: A lofty, deciduous conifer of slender, pyramidal habit, almost columnar in youth, with a stout, straight trunk buttressed at the base and short, horizontal branches, ascending at the ends, the lateral branchlets pendulous; sometimes becoming irregular, flat-topped and picturesque in old age.

Rate: Medium, 50 to 70' high in 30 to 50 years.

Bark: Rather attractive reddish brown, fibrous bark; the trunk becoming strongly buttressed especially in wet areas.

Culture: Transplants readily B&B, or spade truck installed; makes its best growth on deep, fine, sandy loams with plenty of moisture in the surface layers and moderately good drainage; in the wild it is seldom found on such places and occurs primarily in permanent swamps where it forms pure stands. Very adaptable tree to wet, dry and well drained soil conditions; soils should be acid for chlorosis will occur on high pH soils. Exceptionally wind firm and even winds of hurricane force rarely overturn them.

Credit: "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants" by Michael A. Dirr

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