

Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)

Origin: Native.

Status in Park: Widespread in the previous agricultural fields, occasional in the wooded areas.

Characteristics: Reaches 70 feet in height and 3 feet in diameter but is usually much smaller; crown narrowly pyramidal or broadly rounded; bark light reddish-brown, thin ($\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch), peeling in long, narrow strips; flowers tiny, yellowish spikes (male) or purplish conelets in clusters (female); fruits berrylike, up to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter, dark blue.

Leaves: Evergreen, dark bluish green, composed of flat scales $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long and sharp needles $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long.



The beautiful reddish wood resists decay, is easily worked, and takes a fine finish. It is used to make cedar chests. The aromatic oils repel insects and protect woolens stored in the chests. Birds such as wild turkeys (common in the park) feed on the Red Cedar berries. Birds are mostly responsible for spreading the seeds around the park.