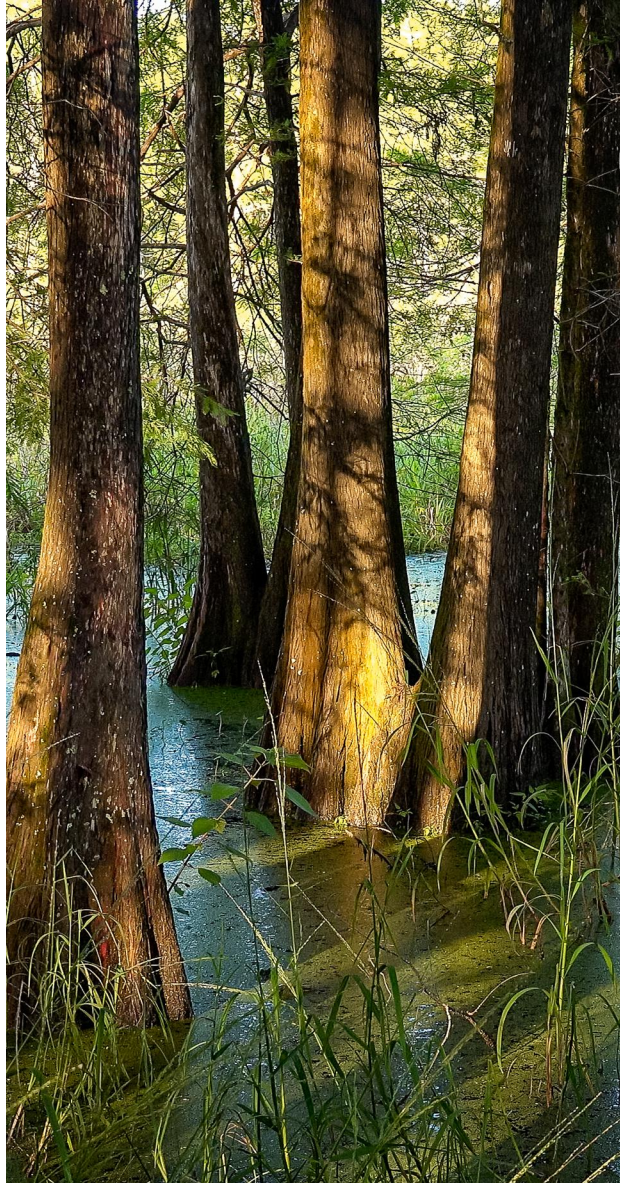


# Bald Cypress



# Picture It!

Check out these pictures of Cypress Trees and their habitat!



# Bald Cypress

## What's the gist?

- The Bald Cypress is the state tree of Louisiana.
- It gets the name “bald” cypress because they drop their leaves in the fall.
- The tree can grow up to 120 feet tall and live up to 600 years in age.
- They are well-adapted to wet conditions along riverbanks and swamps, and they can also be found in dry areas and are frequently planted as ornamental trees.
- The bald cypress has “knees.” The knees are not like ours, but rather they are a special kind of root. The technical term for the knees is “pneumatophore,” which means “air bearing.”
- They also might help to anchor the tree. Knees are commonly seen in wet areas, but they are rare in dry areas.

## The benefits!

- The bald cypress is an important wildlife tree.
- The cones contain seeds that are eaten by birds and squirrels.
- Frogs, toads, and salamanders use the bald cypress swamps as breeding grounds.
- Many birds build their nests in these trees.
- The trees are valued for the rot-resistant heartwood of mature trees, and are used to make fence posts, doors, flooring, caskets, cabinetry, and other important products.
- They are excellent at soaking up floodwaters, trapping pollutants, and preventing erosion.

# Learning Links

Take a look at these materials to further your experience!

**Read a story, Listen to a story, Take a tour here: <https://bit.ly/30v3yAQ>**

Video: Swamp People: Cypress Knees | History

Video: Bald Cypress Tree- Taxodium distichum - Growing Bald Cypress

Fact sheet about the Bald Cypress, USDA

# Activity Corner

Check out these awesome activities for an enriching learning experience!

Celebrate Arbor Day by planting a Bald Cypress tree at LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens.

Arbor Day is celebrated every year in the month of January.

Link to website about the event: <https://www.lsu.edu/botanic-gardens/events/index.php#arbor>