

Eastern Redcedar



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Eastern Redcedar

Juniperus Virginiana

- Native evergreen conifer tree, one of the widest ranges in North America for a tree species, not a true Cedar, a Juniper
- Considered a native pioneer tree species
- Has considerably expanded the acreage it's found on with the removal of wildfire from the landscape
- Fibrous spreading root system, can establish on a wide variety of soil types from shallow rocky uplands to deep fertile riparian areas, but cannot tolerate repeated flooding
- Is considered shade intolerant, however established trees can survive in a shaded understory for an extended time
- Only reproduces from seed, cannot re-sprout after cutting
- Relatively long-lived, is a component or associate species in numerous forest cover types



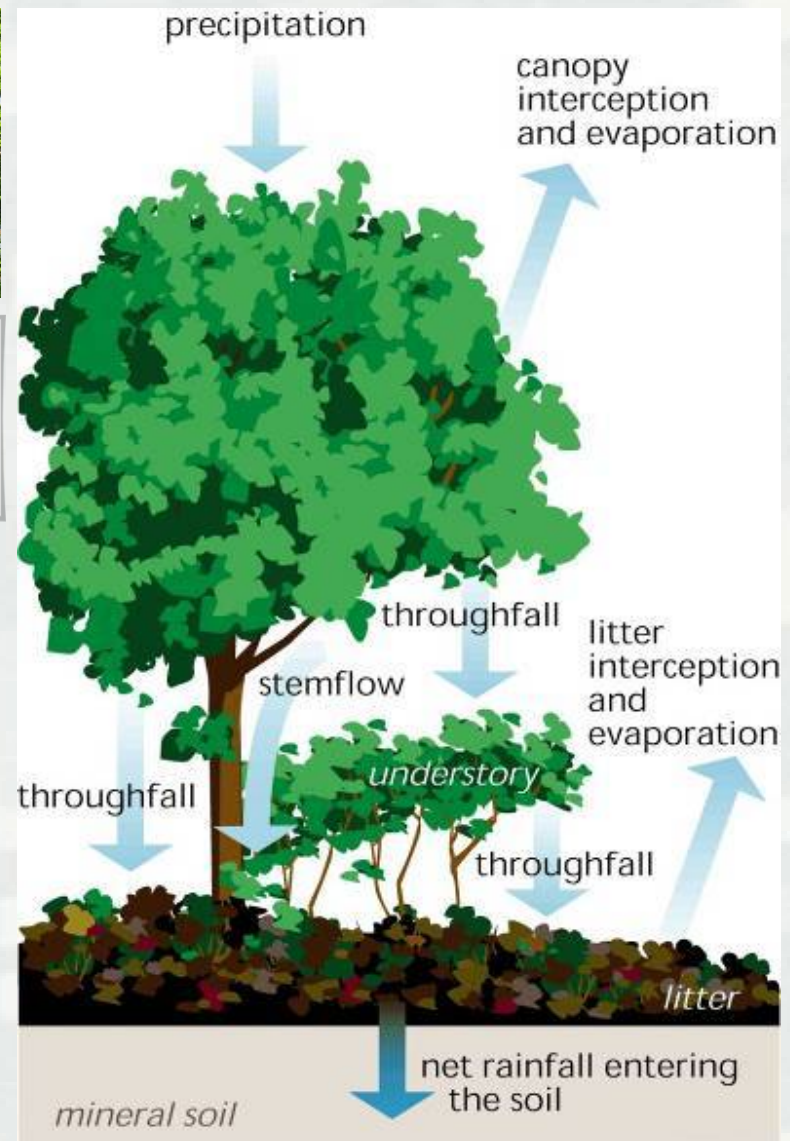
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Eastern Redcedar Benefits and Uses

- Blue “berries” are small cones containing 1-4 seeds, tree can produce viable seeds as early as 10 years, good food source for many birds and smaller mammals
- Other wildlife uses include escape cover, shelter, nesting materials, browse
- Highly adaptable to a very wide range of soil and climate conditions. Can establish on very poor sites such as rock outcrops
- Multiple beneficial uses including windbreaks, viewscreens, noise abatement, erosion stabilization, water/runoff filtration, water quality, rainfall interception, land reclamation/restoration
- Tolerant of salts and many herbicides
- Aromatic wood used for cedar chests, paneling, heartwood is highly rot resistant, popular for wood fences, posts, shavings for animal bedding



Eastern Redcedar Challenges

- Flammability - Eastern redcedar's live foliage contains oils that can cause it to ignite and burn more easily than other trees' live foliage, can act as a ladder fuel under the right conditions and torch individual or groups of trees, which can spread burning embers downwind
- Very susceptible to fire at young age, older trees less susceptible
- Can develop into dense thickets, creating monoculture stands
- Eastern Redcedar woody debris is very persistent, decaying foliage can alter the pH of soil
- Considered an invasive plant in some states particularly on grazing/grasslands and scrublands, but not considered an invasive in Missouri or Arkansas
- Can be a "water hog" in dry climates or under extended drought conditions
- Like most other trees, Eastern redcedar is susceptible to ice and wind damage



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Discussion Regarding Some Alternatives and Comments Submitted on Eastern Redcedar

- Replace with warm season grasses
- Remove all redcedars to X distance
- Replace with other trees
- Vegetation modification permits



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Questions?



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