

# EASTERN RED CEDAR

## *Juniperus virginiana* L.

**OTHER COMMON NAMES:** Red juniper, Red cedar, Savin, Cedar, Juniper bush.

**FORM:** 40-50 feet tall, 10-12 inches diameter, occasionally large; slender branches horizontal on lower part of tree, ascending on upper portion, forming narrow, compact pyramidal head.

**BARK:** Reddish brown, thin, somewhat grooved, peeling off in long fibrous strips.

**TWIGS:** Slender, usually four-sided, green until leaf fall, then round and reddish brown.

**LEAVES:** Of two kinds, scale-like and awl-shaped, scale-like leaves predominate, may persist 3-6 years, 1/16 inch long, opposite, 4 ranked, ovate, acute, usually glandular on the back, closely appressed, dark bluish green, awl-shaped usually on young trees and vigorous shoots, linear lanceolate, without glands, opposite, not overlapping, 1/2-3/4 inch long.

**FLOWERS:** Appear from February to May, dioecious, (rarely monoecious), borne in cones; staminate cones 1/8-1/4 inch long, oblong-ovate, yellow, in great numbers; pistillate cones solitary, terminal, about 1/16 inch long, ovoid, consisting of about 6 fleshy, spreading, acute, bluish scales.

**FRUIT:** Subglobose, pale or blue-green, somewhat angled, berry-like cone, 1/4-1/3 inch in diameter, becomes glaucous in autumn, with firm epidermis and thin sweet flesh; seeds 1-2, wingless, 1/16-1/8 inch long.

**WINTER BUDS:** Inconspicuous because they are small and covered with leaves.

**WOOD:** Non-porous, without resin ducts; heartwood red; sapwood nearly white; wood light, soft, brittle, fragrant, readily worked, very durable in contact with the soil.

**USES:** Moth-proof chests, closets, cabinets, interior paneling and millwork, fence posts, furniture, landscaping, handicrafts. Historical uses: pencils, pails, tubs.

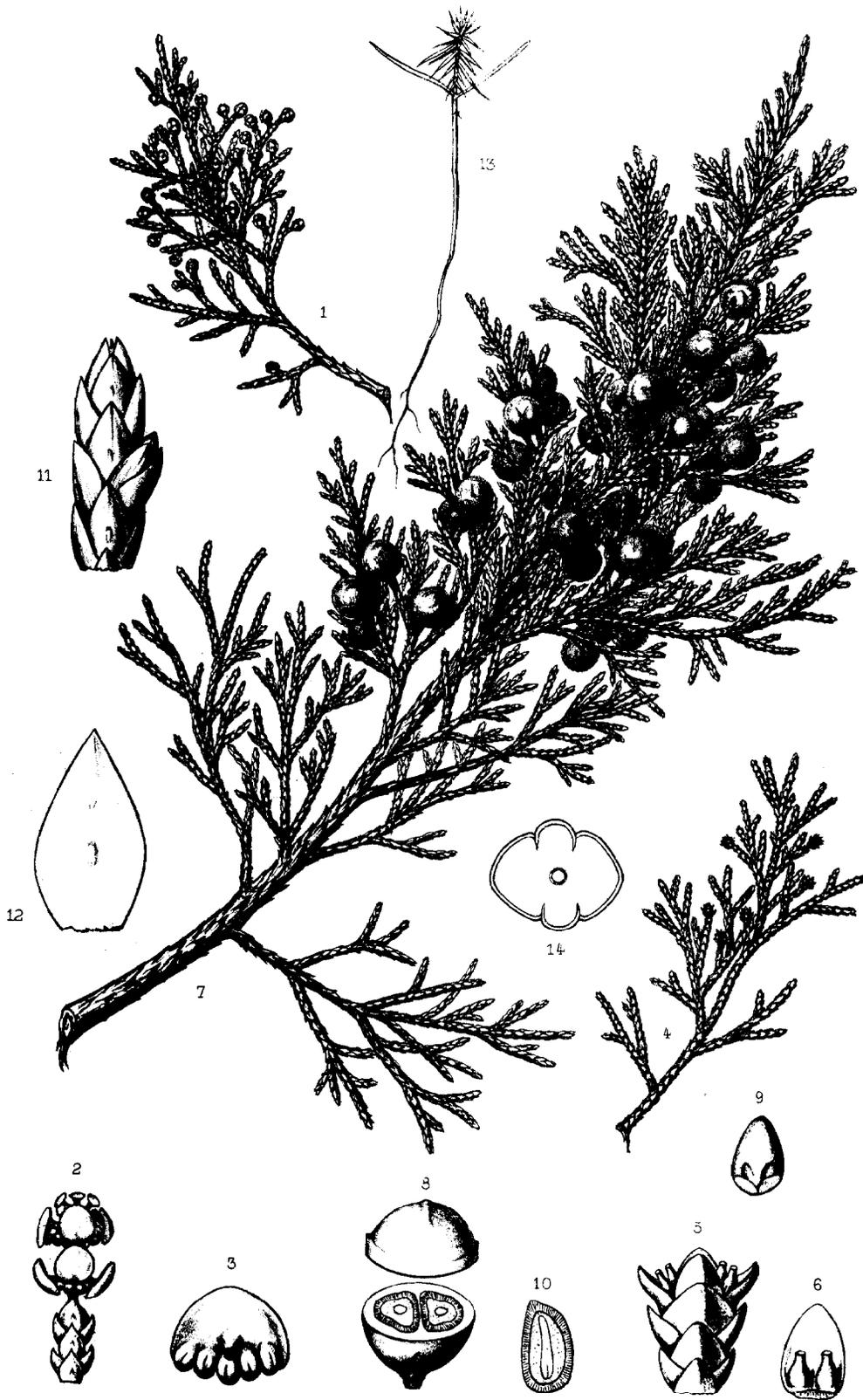
**HABITAT:** Adapts to variety of soils abandoned fields, rocky cliffs, limestone soil favorable for its growth, best development in alluvial soils of the southern states.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:** Berry-like fruit; scale-like leaves in 4 rows; awl-shaped leaves usually in 2 rows; distinct red heart wood; fragrance of its wood.

**DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA:** Most abundant in northern tier of counties; also in Cherokee, Etowah, Calhoun, Talladega, Blount, Jefferson, Shelby, Tuscaloosa, and Bibb Counties; common in the Black Belt.

### EXPLANATION OF PLATE

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. A flowering branch of the staminate tree                   | 8. A fruit divided transversely  |
| 2. A staminate flower   | 9. A seed                        |
| 3. A stamen, front view                                       | 10. Vertical section of a seed   |
| 4. A branch of the pistillate tree                            | 11. End of a branchlet           |
| 5. A pistillate flower  | 12. A leaf                       |
| 6. A scale of a pistillate flower with its ovules, front view | 13. A seedling                   |
| 7. A fruiting branch  | 14. Cross section of a branchlet |



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