

# 10,000 TREES INITIATIVE

## TREE INFO CARD

# Baldcypress

*(Taxodium distichum)*

### Get to know your tree:

The baldcypress is not native to Michigan, but is native to eastern North America and is non-invasive in Michigan. It is a deciduous conifer with short, pale green, flattened needles. Needles are 2-ranked, creating feather-like lateral branchlets. Fall leaf color is typically a drab gold or deep maroon. Fruits are small, rounded cones with relatively few woody scales. Immature cones are green. Bark is reddish to grey, with fibrous ridges. The trunk is often buttressed near the base.

### Tree benefits:

Each year, a 1-inch diameter baldcypress provides approximately \$42.00 in benefits and reduces atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels by 34 pounds. To learn more about the benefits provided by your tree, or to see the benefits provided by larger baldcypresses, visit [www.treebenefits.com](http://www.treebenefits.com).



### Fun facts about your tree:

Baldcypress is sometimes called the "wood eternal" because its heartwood is resistant to decay.

It is often used for heavy construction due to this fact.

This species' unique appearance has inspired many writers over the centuries. In his 1847 poem *Evangeline*, Longfellow refers to its "towering and tenebrous boughs" that "waved like banners that hang on the walls of ancient cathedrals."



### Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at least partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day). Baldcypresses grow to heights of 50-75 feet, with a spread of around 25 feet – make sure to consider the size of the tree and do not plant this tree underneath overhead utilities. Please also consider potential conflicts with solar panels. This species does best in moist, slightly acidic soils. It is tolerant of flooding.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit [www.arborday.org/trees/planting](http://www.arborday.org/trees/planting). And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

### Care for your tree:

This species is moderately tolerant of drought, but prefers moist soil. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.



[www.a2gov.org/10ktrees](http://www.a2gov.org/10ktrees)