

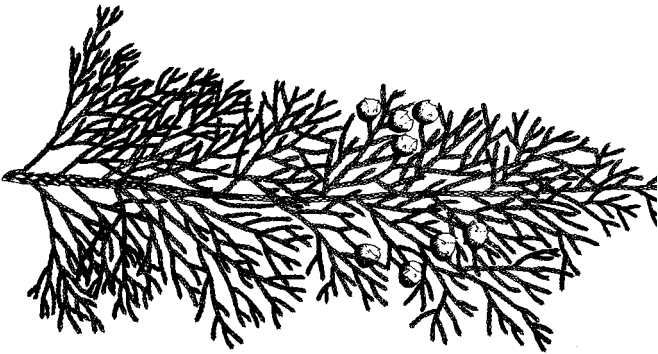
EASTERN REDCEDAR

Juniperus virginiana L.

Eastern redcedar is not a common species in this state. It grows on poor soils, gravely slopes, rocky ridges, and on moist, sandy ground. It is found intermittently in southern Maine and locally in Bridgton, Porter, Denmark, and West Gardiner. It gets the name "redcedar" from the red color of the heartwood.

It is very variable in its habit. Young trees have slender horizontal branches, and a narrow, compact, conical head. The crown of old trees becomes broad and much rounded. In this state, trees attain a diameter of 8 - 12 inches, and a height of 30 feet.

The **bark** on the trunk is light brown, tinged with red, and separating into long, narrow shreds on old trees.



The **leaves** are scale-like, overlapping, about 1/16 inch long, dark green, and remain on the tree 5 - 6 years, growing hard and woody the third season. Branchlets appear square in cross section. Current growth and vigorous shoots contain sharp-pointed, awl-shaped leaves; the so-called "juvenile" growth.

The **fruit** is berry-like, globose, 1 - 2 seeded, pale green at first, dark blue when ripe, and is about the size of a pea.

The **wood** is brittle, fine-grained, light, easily worked, durable, and very aromatic. The heartwood has a dull red color. It is valuable for fence posts and cabinet making, but in Maine it is not sufficiently plentiful to be of commercial importance. The shavings of this species are used as bedding for pets.