

Eastern Red Cedar

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Juniperus virginiana

FAMILY: Cupressaceae

ORIGIN: eastern North America

The scientific name is Juniperus virginiana. Commonly they are known as red cedar,

Eastern Red Cedar, Virginian juniper, eastern juniper,

red juniper, and other, local names.

This species of juniper is native to eastern North America from southeastern Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and east of the Great Plains.

There are several of these trees here on the farm. When we find them in the woods they are often near the crest of a ridge. They seem to grow very slowly and reach heights of 40 feet or more here before they mature and die.

Did your grandmother have a Cedar Chest? If so you know this tree. The smell of the Eastern Red
Cedar is highly objectionable to insects but oh so nice
to us. As a result, this lumber was widely used for chests and to line

closets.

The Eastern Red Cedar is also the best wood for led pencils and cigar boxes.