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## **CYPRESS BOTANICAL ANATOMY**

### **The Species BALDCYPRESS ( *TAXODIUM DISTICHUM* )**

BALDCYPRESS ( *TAXODIUM DISTICHUM* ) falls into two Variety Categories, being WHITE or SWAMP Cypress and RED or POND Cypress. Other common names for Cypress are Southern Cypress, Gulf Cypress, River Cypress, Yellow Cypress, and Black Cypress. Yellow and Black Cypress are slang names for WHITE or SWAMP Cypress.

- WHITE or SWAMP Cypress grows in and around flowing water.
- RED or POND Cypress grows in stagnant or ponded water.
- Tidewater Red Cypress was the name for the Old Growth Cypress that grew in tidal marshes or flowing water. Tidewater Red doesn't much exist anymore, sometimes in sinker or dead head Cypress.
- Wind Shake can be a factor in coastal Cypress. Shake can change lumber soundness, which can be sorted out in the grading process.
- The very white-white colored Cypress comes from Virginia, the Carolinas, and Coastal Georgia. This is less dense Cypress.
- Cypress from Florida is more RED or POND cypress. Cypress from Florida has been harvested at least twice since the 1800's / early 1900's, and is now 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> generation newer growth.
- Cypress from the Gulf Coast (LA/MS/AL) is more WHITE or SWAMP Cypress, but is older 2<sup>nd</sup> generation growth, therefore with color and density very close to RED or POND Cypress from Florida.
- Cypress from the Gulf Coast is usually a bigger tree than Cypress from Florida. This means it could have somewhat larger but more spaced apart defects within a grade's range of defect allowances.
- Older and bigger Cypress trees usually have more tan colored Heartwood.
- Select Grade generally comes from the outside of the log and has more blond colored Sapwood. The bigger the tree and log, the more Select Grade.