

## Vascular Plants of Williamson County

*Juniperus virginiana* var. *virginiana* – EASTERN RED CEDAR [Cupressaceae]

*Juniperus virginiana* L. var. *virginiana*, EASTERN RED CEDAR. Small tree, evergreen, scale-leaved, sometimes spinescent (on vigorous whip shoots), most leaves on relatively short, ascending to spreading lateral branches, usually with 1 trunk, highly branched and shedding senescent minor shoots, canopy  $\pm$  conic, in range to 8 m tall; dioecious; shoots with scalelike leaves in 4 vertical, closely appressed, overlapping rows (orthotropic), foliage shoots  $\pm$  4-sided and mostly ca. 1 mm diameter, strongly aromatic when crushed having ducts filled with resin. **Stems:** on young growth flexible, hidden by leaf bases; bark of old stem peeling in thin strips (exfoliating), red-brown. **Leaves:** opposite decussate (whorled sometimes on thicker whip shoots), simple and sessile, without stipules; spinescent leaves on primary shoots having the longest internodes, acuminate-triangular and awl-shaped,  $2.5\text{--}8.5 \times 1.5$  mm, with hard point at tip, on typical shoots acute-triangular  $\pm 1 \times 1$  mm (typical foliage), dark green often somewhat glossy, decurrent base on stem, minutely toothed on margin, with pit of resin gland in center at base. **Pollen cone:** spikelike, terminal on scattered, newly formed winter shoots, oblong to ellipsoid,  $3.4\text{--}4.5(-5) \times 1.8\text{--}2.2$  mm, (when releasing pollen), of pollen-bearing, opposite decussate microsporophylls; microsporophylls stalked (peltate) with a broadly ovate (roundish) and cupped top (mushroomlike), surface to  $1.5 \times 1.5$  mm, yellowish ochre and orangish aging red to purplish, minutely fringed on scabrous margins (inrolled before releasing pollen),  $\pm$  obtuse at tip, with 2–6 pollen sacs on under surface of each microsporophylls but only on lower half of surface, sacs pale yellow; pollen pale yellow. **Seed cone:** terminal on short lateral shoot on new growth having to 10 pairs of opposite decussate, green, scalelike leaves; at pollination young cone inconspicuous, of to 4 fused, fleshy cone scales (scale-bract complex), opposite to alternate, each initially pink and glaucous with 2 visible chimneylike projections (exposed micropyles of ovules) along edge of fertile scale; mature seed cone (1-year) berrylike, 1–2(–3)-seeded often with 1 seed distinctly larger, ovoid with 1 flat face or almond-shaped (3-sided) to ovoid-subspheroid,  $4.5\text{--}5 \times 4\text{--}4.5$  mm, glaucous blue-black often drying waxy and whitish; maturing in same year and abscising with terminal portion of shoot with several pairs of leaves. **Seed:**  $\pm$  hemiovoid to angular ovoid, (2–)  $2.5\text{--}4 \times 2.5\text{--}3 \times 1.7$  mm, brown and resin-coated.

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