



CONES - CONTINUED

The first two are of the Yew family (Taxodiaceae):



Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*) – a conifer usually associated with the South, but grows well in extreme Northern ranges as well; slow-growing; bright green needles turn to gold, arranged spirally around their stems similarly to the logarithmic spirals of their offspring cones; native and 'Shawnee Brave' are stocked.

Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostoboides*; 'sort of like a sequoia with overlapping scales') – a long-believed ancient relic rediscovered and redistributed over the globe since World War II; needles also bright green, arranged in flattened rows, turning to reddish-brown before they descend; phenomenally fast growth; species stocked with an occasional appearance of 'Gold Rush'.



Our third deciduous conifer makes only a rare appearance at CPC:



Larch: European, Japanese, or American (*Larix decidua*, *kaempferi*, *laricina*) – their needle arrangements vary off of spurs with soft green, somewhat glaucous tones; fast-growing, upright with a few variants such as 'Pendula' and 'Varied Directions'; often asked for, but a special order item at CPC

Last is the most unusual but most troublesome of our deciduous conifers:

The Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) – fan-shaped, dichotomous (forked in two pairs) leaves (Don't feel bad – I had to look up that word, too!); slow-growing, but establishes well in almost any type of soil; fruit is actually a plum-shaped naked seed which gives off an offensive odor so plant the boys: 'Magyar', 'Princeton Sentry', 'Saratoga', 'Fastigiata', to name a few.

Dramatically, the Ginkgo releases its fans of bright yellow in the fall almost simultaneously – get out the lawn chairs and popcorn!

But no ginkgocones – why the conifer claim? Go figure, the male flowers are clusters of small cones.

So, I hope you did well! After all, it's evergreen season – Oops! I mean conifer season!



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