



Natural Communities of Louisiana

Cedar Woodland

Rarity Rank: S1/G1

Synonyms: Copenhagen Cedar Woodland

Ecological Systems: CES203.379 West Gulf Coastal Southern Calcareous Prairie

General Description:

- Occurs on the Jackson formation of northcentral Louisiana
- Associated with calcareous prairies
- Soils are stiff calcareous clays (surface pH ~ 7.5-8.0), with very high shrink-swell characteristics, and range in color from red to olive-tan to gray-black
- Various soil inclusions occur that may include calcareous concretions (limestone nodules), marine mollusc shells, shark teeth, and gypsum crystals
- Usually develop in fire protected areas within calcareous prairies or at the prairie to woodland interface



Plant Community Associates

Characteristic overstory species include:

Juniperus virginiana (Eastern red cedar),
Quercus sinuata (Durand oak),

Pinus taeda (loblolly pine),
Fraxinus americana (white ash)

Common herbaceous species include:

Schizachyrium scoparium (little bluestem),
Sporobolus spp. (dropseeds),
Sorghastrum nutans (Indian grass)

Danthonia spicata (poverty oatgrass),
Paspalum floridanum (Florida paspalum),

Federally-listed plant & animal species:

None

Range:

West to northcentral Louisiana along the Jackson Formation in portions of the Upper and Lower West Gulf Coastal Plains



Threats & Management Considerations:

Little is known about the historic extent or current condition of cedar woodlands in Louisiana. Surveys are warranted to identify remaining woodlands. Threats to these woodlands include logging, residential and commercial development, construction of roads, pipelines and utilities, off-road vehicle use, contamination by chemicals (herbicides, fertilizers), and invasive and exotic species.



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Use of appropriate management activities and developing a compatible management plan prevents destruction or degradation of this habitat type and promotes long-term maintenance of healthy cedar woodlands. Such management strategies should include:

- Preventing conversion of existing natural woodlands to other land uses
- Prohibiting off-road vehicle use or restricting use to existing trails
- Monitoring for and removal of any invasive or exotic species by prescribed burning, spot herbicide treatments or mechanical means



Eastern red cedar in fruit



Soil profile with exposed calcareous nodules