

# ATLANTIC WHITE CEDAR

*Chamaecyparis thyoides* (L.) B.S.P.

**OTHER COMMON NAMES:** White cedar, False cypress, Swamp cedar, Southern white cedar.

**FORM:** 40-50 feet tall, diameter 1-2 feet, may reach a height of 90 feet, trunk straight, tapering, bears slender horizontal branches which form a more or less narrow, conical crown.

**BARK:** Rather thin, reddish-brown, somewhat furrowed, peels off in long fibrous-like scales 3/4 inch or slightly more in thickness.

**TWIGS:** Rather slender, somewhat flattened, at first bluish-green, after the leaves have fallen they become roundish and reddish-brown; terminal twigs often arranged in fan-like clusters.

**LEAVES:** Opposite, scale-like, ovate, sharp-pointed, appressed, imbricated, dark blue-green, glandular, 1/16-1/8 inch long, often spreading and awl-shaped on vigorous shoots.

**FLOWERS:** Monoecious, borne in cones on different sprays; staminate cones terminal, solitary, about 1/8 inch long; ovulate cones usually solitary 1/16-1/8 inch long, consist of 6 peltate scales.

**FRUIT:** A globose, glaucous, inconspicuous, bluish-purple cone about 1/4 inch in diameter, reddish-brown when ripe, opening the first season in autumn; cone scales peltate; each fertile scale bears 1 to 2 seeds with a dark brown wing; seeds about 1/8 inch long.

**WINTER BUDS:** Minute, without scales, protected by the appressed scale-like leaves.

**WOOD:** Light, soft, weak, close-grained, slightly fragrant, light reddish-brown.

**USES:** Posts, poles, railroad ties. Very durable in contact with the soil. Historical uses: boat lumber, tubs, shingles.

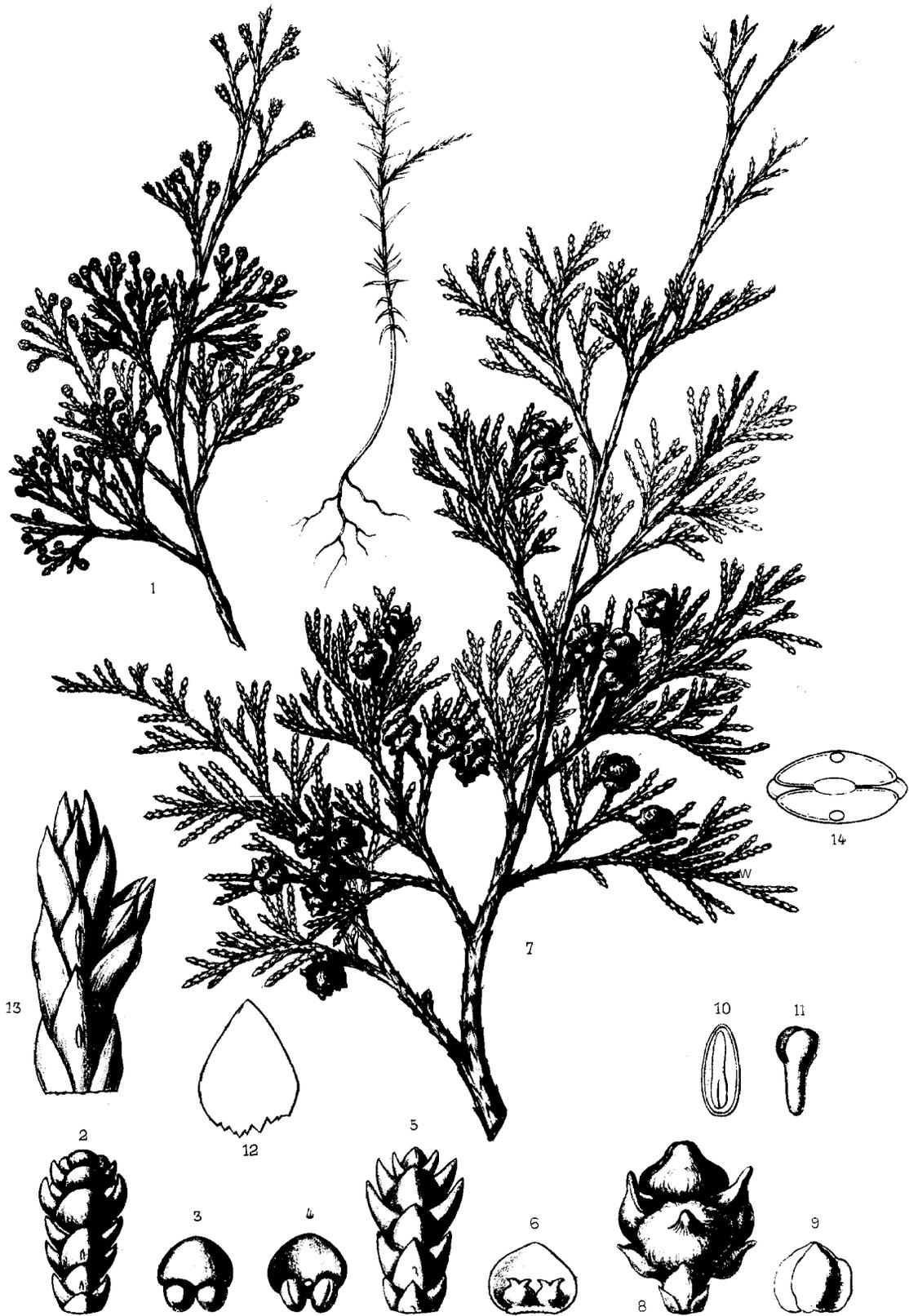
**HABITAT:** Cold, wet swamps in the North; in the South intermingled with baldcypress. Tree thrives in regions unsuitable for other species.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:** Small globose cones with shield-shape scales, branchlets compressed at first and later become terete; leaves ovate, acuminate with slender callous tips; glandular dots on the leaves.

**DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA:** Washington, Mobile, Baldwin, and Escambia Counties.

## EXPLANATION OF PLATE

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. A flowering branch  | 9. A seed                        |
| 2. Staminate flower  | 10. Vertical section of a seed   |
| 3. A stamen, rear view                                       | 11. An embryo                    |
| 4. A stamen, front view                                      | 12. A leaf                       |
| 5. A pistillate flower                                       | 13. End of a branchlet           |
| 6. A scale of a pistillate flower,<br>with ovule, front view | 14. Cross section of a branchlet |
| 7. A fruiting branch   | 15. A seedling                   |
| 8. A fruit   |                                  |



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