



## **Pond Cypress, Debonair**

*Taxodium distichum 'Morris'*

Height: 60 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight:  

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Debonair Bald Cypress

### **Description:**

A particularly beautiful deciduous conifer with lovely pendulous foliage along its formal pyramidal habit; narrow bright green leaves turn bronze in fall, a broad trunk and odd knee-like protrusions at the base when grown in standing water; very adaptable

### **Ornamental Features**

Pond Cypress, Debonair is primarily valued in the landscape for its rigidly columnar form. It has emerald green deciduous foliage. The ferny bipinnately compound leaves turn an outstanding coppery-bronze in the fall. However, the fruit can be messy in the landscape and may require occasional clean-up. The shaggy antique red bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

### **Landscape Attributes**

Pond Cypress, Debonair is a deciduous tree with a strong central leader and a narrowly upright and columnar growth habit. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which can make it a great accent feature on this basis alone.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds and squirrels to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Pond Cypress, Debonair is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Shade
- Vertical Accent



*Pond Cypress, Debonair in fall*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Pond Cypress, Debonair foliage*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



### **Planting & Growing**

Pond Cypress, Debonair will grow to be about 60 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It has a high canopy of foliage that sits well above the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. As it matures, the lower branches of this tree can be strategically removed to create a high enough canopy to support unobstructed human traffic underneath. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 80 years or more.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It is an amazingly adaptable plant, tolerating both dry conditions and even some standing water. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selection of a native North American species.

### **Flowers & Seeds**

Flowers are insignificant. Few to some clusters of 2" round cones appear in summer when the tree gets 8 to 10 years or older and drops in early autumn.