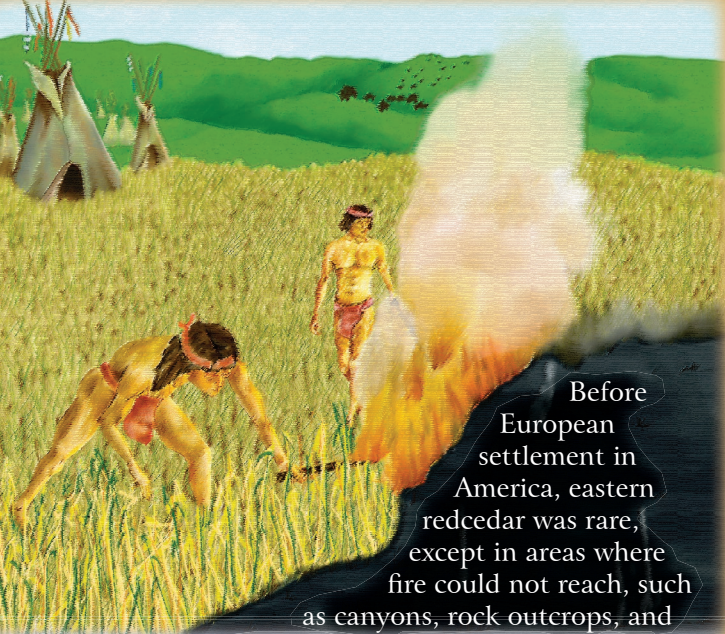


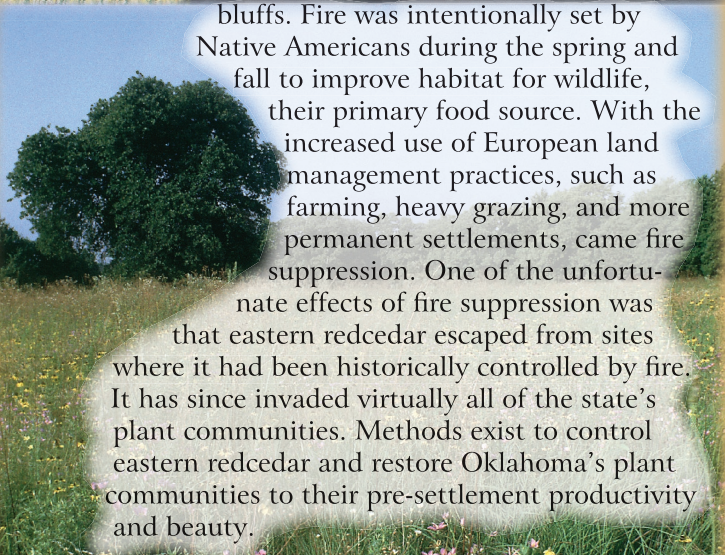
Characteristics of Eastern Redcedar and their Management Implications

Fact

Management Implication



Before European settlement in America, eastern redcedar was rare, except in areas where fire could not reach, such as canyons, rock outcrops, and bluffs.



Fire was intentionally set by Native Americans during the spring and fall to improve habitat for wildlife, their primary food source. With the increased use of European land management practices, such as farming, heavy grazing, and more permanent settlements, came fire suppression. One of the unfortunate effects of fire suppression was that eastern redcedar escaped from sites where it had been historically controlled by fire. It has since invaded virtually all of the state's plant communities. Methods exist to control eastern redcedar and restore Oklahoma's plant communities to their pre-settlement productivity and beauty.



Eastern redcedar (ERC) is an "evergreen," this allows it to grow year round, whenever the temperatures are above 40° F. It is somewhat tolerant of shade and can grow into forests and woodlands.



Makes it a strong competitor in forest stands.

ERC has a thin bark and fine, flammable foliage that easily ignites.



Makes it susceptible to fire.

ERC does not sprout when cut below the lowest live branch, or when the top is killed by fire.

Makes cutting and prescribed burning effective means of control.

ERC is spread by birds and small mammals that eat the berry-like cones. When these treated seeds are passed onto soil, they sprout and become established as seedlings.

Ungrazed or undisturbed areas are prime sites for infestations to begin.



ERC start to produce seeds at six to ten years of age.

Makes control easiest when trees are young and not actively reproducing.

Male and female flowers occur on separate trees. Trees do not change gender.



Makes it possible to control spread by killing or cutting seed-producing trees, when costs or aesthetics are a factor.

ERC grows on a wide variety of soils, is drought tolerant, and has few natural pests.

It can invade almost any site in the absence of fire.

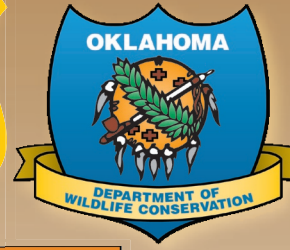


The Dust Bowl of the '30s lead to the cedar windbreaks of today.



Biology and Ecology of Eastern Redcedar

Eastern redcedar is a native evergreen tree that does not resprout when cut down or burned. Thus, it is *not* fire adapted. Eastern redcedar has spread because of suppression of naturally occurring lightning fires and fires historically used by Native Americans to manage plant growth. It has also spread from lack of prescribed fire management, as well as misguided tree planting – an artifact of the Dust Bowl and lack of appreciation for prairie and shrubland ecosystems and indigenous wildlife.



For more information, contact the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry - Forestry Service at 405.521.3864 or any of the other participating agencies.

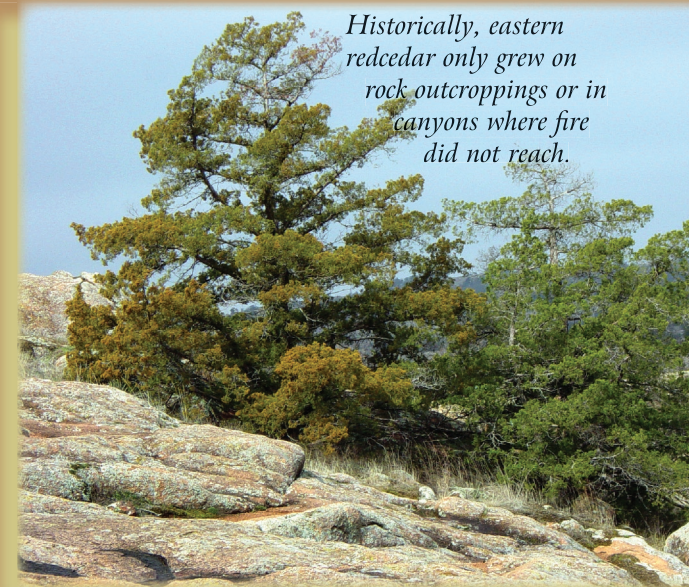
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Biology, Ecology, and History of Eastern Redcedar



Historically, eastern redcedar only grew on rock outcroppings or in canyons where fire did not reach.

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