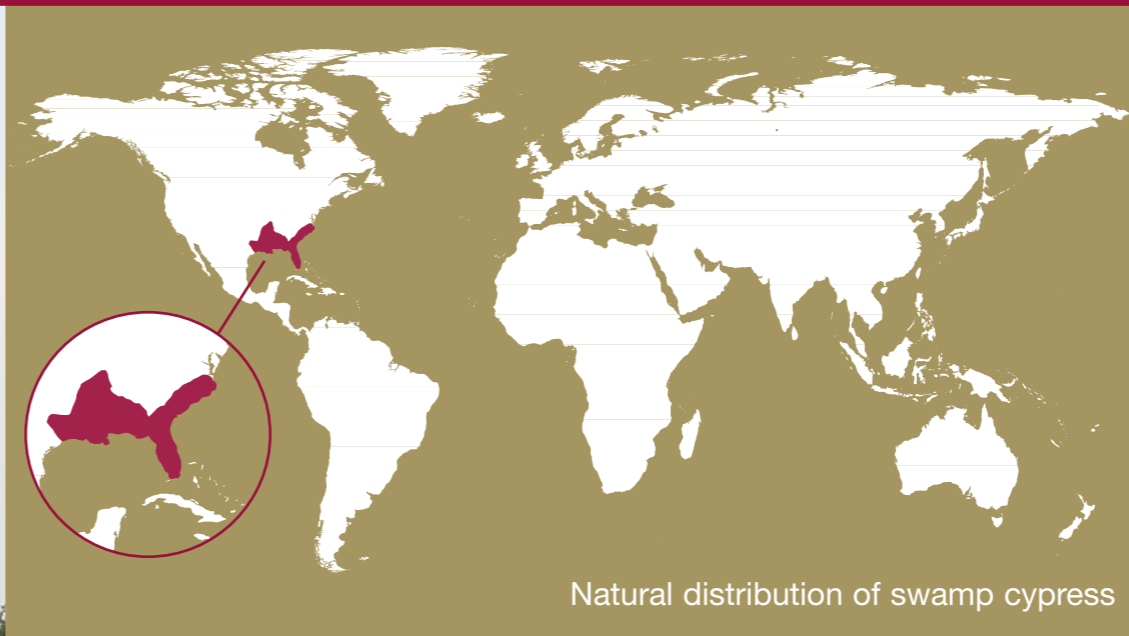


Swamp cypress *Taxodium distichum*



This is a deciduous conifer, just like the dawn redwood, but this one has branchlets that alternate along the branches, unlike the dawn redwood's opposite branchlets. The swamp cypress also has distinctive 'knees' (see Did you know?).

These trees have waterproof wood.

Swamp cypress wood resists water and is therefore unlikely to rot, warp or shrink. This makes it a very popular timber for construction including rafters, shingles and fence posts. It has also been used for many years for making water pipes, barrels and even the planking in boats.

The natural population of these trees is not currently threatened but future pressures such as tourism, agricultural development and climate change might affect that. So we're preserving these trees now at Bedgebury, just in case.

Did you know?

Swamp cypresses have an unusual feature – woody projections of the root system which stick up above the ground, known as 'knees' or 'pneumatophores'. These carry oxygen from the air down to roots in waterlogged ground and may also help to stabilise the tree.

