Montezuma Baldcypress
*Taxodium mucronatum*

Secondary Names:
Montezuma Cypress, Sabino, Ahuehuete

**Leaf Type:** Evergreen

**Texas Native:**  
☑ Yes  ☐ No

**Firewise:**  
☑ Yes  ☐ No

**Tree Description:**
A fast-growing, large tree to 70 feet tall and a thick trunk up to 6 feet in diameter or more, with an irregular, rounded or flat-topped crown and drooping branchlets. Unlike the closely related baldcypress, this species does not produce "knees."

**Range/Site Description:**
Streambanks along the Rio Grande, its tributaries, and nearby resacas. Planted as a landscape tree as far north as Houston, where the leaves become deciduous.

**Leaf:**
The delicate, light green leaves are flattened, about 0.5" to 0.75" long, very narrow, and arranged in feather-like fashion along two sides of slender branchlets 3" to 6" long; persistent and evergreen in extreme South Texas, but semi-evergreen or deciduous farther north.

**Flower:**
Male "flowers" in long clusters that resemble oak catkins, 6" to 12" long, with the individual flowers spread out spirally along the central thread-like stem; female "flowers" are small and inconspicuous swellings on the previous year's branchlets.

**Fruit:**
A round cone, to 1" in diameter, surface rough, green and glaucous at first, but turning brown and woody later.

**Bark:**
Reddish-brown, smooth on young trunks and branches, but developing shredding scales and, eventually thick, rough ridges and fissures on older trees

**Wood:**
Wood is similar to baldcypress, and several parts of the tree reportedly have medicinal qualities. Used increasingly as a landscape tree.

**Similar Species:**
Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*) occurs commonly in Central and East Texas and in landscapes across the state, but has shorter male flowers in the spring; also produces "knees."

**Interesting Facts:**
The largest reported tree of this species, the "Tule tree," near Oaxaca, Mexico, measures over 125 feet tall with a circumference over 150 feet.