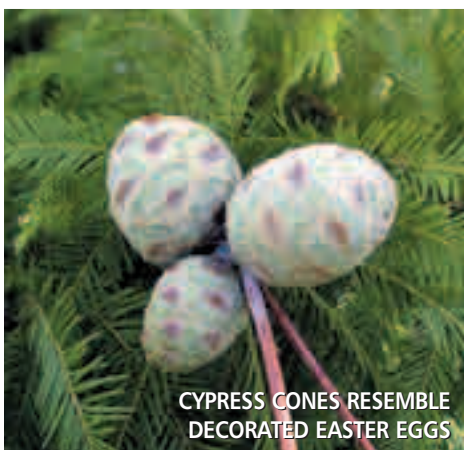




THE PROUD AND STATELY
BALD CYPRESS IN MID-SUMMER



CYPRESS CONES RESEMBLE
DECORATED EASTER EGGS

southern timber pines used in the building and furniture trades. In home landscapes they are pesky and brittle, freely dropping branches, cones and pinestraw year-round and are not infrequently infested by the pine bark beetle borer, requiring their removal. They are better adapted to a forest habitat, home to squirrels and some birds, than in the homeowner's landscape.

Sadly, we are currently singing a requiem for the native red bay, *Persea borbonia*, which has been decimated island-wide with no hope of recovery. According to Sally Krebs, natural resources administrator of the Town of Hilton Head Island, the underlying reason is five consecutive years of drought, leaving these moisture-loving natives weakened and subject to one or all of three diseases – vascular wilt disease, Asian ambrosia beetle, or any type of borer. In other words, they didn't stand a chance. One hopes that seeds had been dropped or suckers had survived so that the population might re-constitute itself.

We treasure our Lowcountry trees. Despite man's efforts, however, nature will always have the last word.

– Barbara Hodges

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