

# Cedars



This is an unusual stand of trees on the Red Trail, which is dominated by broad leaf trees rather than these evergreens. Red cedars can grow to 60 feet high and up to two feet in diameter. They grow in all kinds of habitats from wooded uplands, like these, and wetter one like swamps and flood plains. Red Cedars are often one of the first woody trees to move into abandoned fields and open places because they are “shade intolerant,” preferring open sunlight. As they grow and cast shade underneath their boughs, shade tolerant plants and trees take root and eventually replace trees such as these on the long process of old field and forest succession. This stand of cedars may be relics of a time when the ground was open and allowed to revert to nature.