

## Dawn Redwood

### *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

Alex X. Niemiera, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture

#### Summary:

Foliage: About one-half inch flat needle-like leaves; deciduous

Height: About 75 feet

Spread: About 20 feet

Shape: Distinctly conical

Main features: Dawn redwood is a fast-growing large deciduous conifer with a distinctly conical form. This species is quite majestic; its feather-like foliage confers a fine texture. Fall foliage color is variable but a pleasant brown-orange color is typical. Dawn redwood tolerates moist soil. This species' noble stature is derived from its size, form, and foliage; these qualities makes it useful as a specimen plant, and used in groupings, and on both sides of a path or drive to create an allée. Old specimens have trunk bases that are widely and sinuously flared giving the trunk a most interesting appearance.

#### Plant Needs:

Zone: 5 to 8

Light: Full sun

Moisture: Moist to average; somewhat drought tolerant

Soil type: Most soils

pH range: Acid; some reports indicate tolerance to alkaline soils

#### Function:

This species' noble stature derived from its size, form, and foliage makes it a useful as a specimen plant, and used in groupings, and on both sides of a path or drive to create an allée.

#### Care:

No special care is required providing that trees are plant in an area that will accommodate the large size.

#### Additional Information:

There are a few cultivars of dawn redwood but the most prevalent clone in the trade is 'Gold Rush' (same as 'Ogon') which has striking bright yellow foliage. Prior to the mid 1940s, this species was only known to the scientific community by fossils. Later in that decade it was found growing in central China and was identified as dawn redwood.