

Plants of the Vernal Pool



Lizard Tail Plant

Is a herbaceous perennial that gets its name from the white flowers that bloom in the summer months. Flowers usually grow to be 6 to 8 inches long. After the flowers reach maturity the white flowers turn brown, giving the plant its namesake, lizard's tail.



Swamp Cottonwood Tree

Is a large deciduous Poplar tree. It is found in wet bottomland forests, reaching a height of 100 feet at full maturity. Poplars and aspens are important food plants for the larvae of a large number of butterfly species.



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Wild Goldenrod

Goldenrod species are used as a food source by the larvae of many butterfly species. The invading larva may induce the plant to form a bulbous tissue mass called gall around it, upon which the larva then feeds. Various wasps find these galls and lay eggs in the larvae, penetrating the bulb with their tails. Woodpeckers are known to peck open the galls and eat the insects in the center.

Bald Cypress

It is native to the southeastern United States. Hardy and tough, this tree adapts to a wide range of soil types, whether wet, dry, or swampy. It is noted for the russet-red fall color of its lacy needles.

