

Are those newly planted trees dying?

Thanks to all of you who have expressed concern about the health of the new trees in front of the school! Many have asked about the “evergreens” that are turning burnt orange and losing their leaves. There is no need to worry!

These trees are known botanically as *Taxodium distichum*, their common name is Bald Cypress. They are not evergreens at all; they are deciduous conifers.

Let’s define those two words: when we refer to a deciduous tree, we are talking about a tree that drops its leaves every year. A conifer is a tree that bears cones that hold the seeds of the plant. The confusion arises because most conifers (cone bearing plants) do have leaves that stay on the tree and remain green. The Norway spruce that are planted our front are a good example of this.

Bald Cypress, on the other hand, are a cone bearing plants that change leaf color and drop leaves every year, just like the other deciduous trees we are so familiar with that change color and shed their leaves in fall, maples and oaks and dogwoods for example.

We appreciate you keeping an eye on the new trees and your concern for their health. It is so important for us to care for our arboreal citizens!