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# Metasequoia glyptostroboides

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# Wes Whiteside—Species Information Sheet

## I. Nomenclature

**Family:** Cupressaceae

**Genus Species(Authority):** *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* Hu. & Cheng.

**Subspecies/Variety(Authority):**

**Cultivar:**

**Common Name:** Dawn redwood

## II. Origin (country and/or habitat)

Native/Rare    Native/Uncommon    Old World/Rare    **Old World/Uncommon**

Dawn redwood has a limited native range consisting of a number of populations in the mixed forests of the western Hubei, eastern Sichuan, and southern Hunan Provinces of China. There are also single trees that exist outside its range that are evidence of a wider range that is suspected to have existed before settlement of these areas and subsequent harvesting of the trees for anthropogenic use (Williams 2005).

## III. Habit

<b>Tree</b>	Shrub	Vine
Herbaceous Annual Perennial	Herbaceous Biennial	Herbaceous

**Flowering Season:** N/A-Gymnosperm

**Flower Color:** N/A-Gymnosperm

**Fruit Type:** Ovuliferous cone

## IV. Source of Plant Material

**From where or whom obtained and when:** Dr. Whiteside obtained dawn redwood plants from Forest Keeling Nursery in Missouri in Spring 1965.

**Propagule Material:**

Seed                      Vegetative                      **Whole Plant**  
**Details:**

**Availability:** Dawn redwood is commonly available commercially today.

**V. Cultural**

**Special Soil Type:** Average soil

**Soil Moisture:** Wet                      **Mesic**                      Dry                      Other

**VI. Additional Comments**

Dawn redwood was originally described from fossil specimens before wild populations of living plants were first described in 1948 by Hsen-Hsu Hu and Wan-Chun Cheng. It is thought that the tree had a more extensive range in the past which is supported by a wide hardiness range beyond that indicated by its native climate and fossil and palynological data (Williams 2005). *Metasequoia* has proved to be a fast and easy growing plant, however it is somewhat less winter hardy than the superficially similar bald cypress. Wesley has experienced some self seeding of the *Metasequoia*, but has never attempted to preserve the seedlings. The life science building of Eastern Illinois University was landscaped in approximately 1964. After a planting of three golden chain trees failed, they were replaced by three dawn redwoods selected by Wesley from a catalog of the Fiore Nursery of Chicago.

**VII. Literature Cited**

Williams, C. J. 2005. Ecological characteristics of *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*. *The Geobiology and Ecology of Metasequoia* 285-304.



