

# *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Coast Douglas Fir)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division: Pinophyta  
Class: Pinopsida  
Order: Pinales  
Family: Pinaceae  
Genus: *Pseudotsuga*  
Species: *P. menziesii*

*Pseudotsuga menziesii*, known as **coast Douglas-fir**, **common Douglas-fir**, or **Oregon Douglas-fir**, is an evergreen conifer species native to western North America. Coast Douglas-fir is the second-tallest conifer in the world (after Coast Redwood). Trees 60–75 metres (200–246 ft) or more in height and 1.5–2 metres (4.9–6.6 ft) in

diameter are common in old growth stands, and maximum heights of 100–120 metres (330–390 ft) and diameters up to 4.5–6 metres (15–20 ft) have been documented. The bark on young trees is thin, smooth, gray, and contains numerous resin blisters. On mature trees, it is 10–30 cm thick (4–12 inches) and corky. The shoots are brown to olive-green, turning gray-brown with age, smooth, though

not as smooth as fir shoots, and finely pubescent with short dark

hairs. The buds are a very distinctive narrow conic shape, 4–8 mm long, with red-brown bud scales. The leaves are spirally arranged but slightly twisted at the base to lie in flattish either side of the shoot, needle-like, 2–3.5 cm long, green above with no stomata, and with two whitish stomatal bands below. Unlike the Rocky Mountain Douglas-fir, Coast Douglas-fir foliage has a noticeable sweet fruity-resinous scent, particularly if crushed.

In forest conditions, old individuals typically have a narrow, cylindric crown beginning 20–40 metres (66–130 ft) above a branch-free trunk. Self-pruning is generally slow and trees retain their lower limbs for a long period. Young, open-grown trees

typically have branches down to near ground level. It often takes 70–80 years for the trunk to be clear to a height of 5 metres (16 ft) and 100 years to be clear to a height of 10 metres (33 ft).

The rooting habit of Common Douglas-fir is not particularly deep, with the roots tending to be shallow. Some roots are commonly found in organic soil layers or near the mineral soil surface.

Coast Douglas-fir is one of the worlds best timber producers and yields more timber than any other tree in North America. The wood is used for dimensional lumber, timbers, pilings, and plywood. Creosote treated pilings and decking are used in marine structures. The wood is also made into railroad ties, mine timbers, house logs, posts and poles, flooring, veneer, pulp, and furniture. Coast Douglas-fir is used extensively in landscaping. It is planted as a specimen tree or in mass screenings. It is also a popular Christmas tree

