

Abies fraseri

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Kingdom:	Plantae	<i>Abies fraseri</i> (Fraser fir) is a species of fir native to the mountains of the eastern United States and Canada. It is closely related to <i>Abies balsamea</i> (balsam fir), of which it has occasionally been treated as a subspecies (as <i>A. balsamea</i> subsp. <i>fraseri</i> (Pursh) E.Murray) or a variety (as <i>A. balsamea</i> var. <i>fraseri</i> (Pursh) Spach). Seedlings of Fraser fir are blue-green, longer needles.
Division:	Pinophyta	
Class:	Pinopsida	
Order:	Pinales	
Family:	Pinaceae	
Genus:	<i>Abies</i>	
Species:	<i>A. fraseri</i>	

It is a small evergreen coniferous tree growing to 10–15 m (rarely to 25 m) tall with a trunk 40–50 cm (rarely to 75 cm) diameter. The crown is conical, with straight branches from horizontal to angled 40° upward from the trunk; it is dense when the tree is young, but becomes more open as it ages. The bark is thin and smooth, gray-brown with numerous resin blisters on young trees, becoming fissured and scaly with age. The foliage is strongly turpentine-scented. The leaves are needle-like, arranged spirally on the twigs but twisted at the base to spread in two rows; they are 10–23 mm long and 2–2.2 mm broad, flat and flexible with a rounded or slightly notched tip, dark green to glaucous green above, often with a small patch of stomata near the tip, and with two silvery white stomatal bands on the underside. The cones are erect, cylindric, 3.5–7 cm (rarely 8 cm) long and 2.5–3 cm (rarely 4 cm) broad, dark purple, turning light brown when mature, with long reflexed green, yellow or pale purple bract scales, and often resinous. The cones disintegrate when mature at 4–6 months old to release the winged seeds.



It lives in acidic moist but well-drained sandy loam, and is usually mixed with *Picea rubens* (Red Spruce). Other trees it grows with include *Tsuga caroliniana* (Carolina Hemlock), *Betula alleghaniensis* (Yellow Birch), *Betula papyrifera* (Paper Birch), and *Acer saccharum* (Sugar Maple). The climate is cool and moist, with short, cool summers and cold winters with heavy snowfall.

Fraser fir is widely used as a Christmas tree. Its fragrance, shape, strong limbs, and ability to retain its soft needles for a long time when cut (which do not prick easily when hanging ornaments) make it one of the best trees for this purpose. The Fraser fir has been used more times as the Blue Room Christmas tree (the official Christmas tree of the President of the United States's White House) than any other type of tree.