

Species Silvics

Scientific Name: Pacific silver / Amabilis fir

Common name: *Abies amabilis*

Climate:

Amabilis fir grows from sea level in the extreme north of its range and up to 2300m in the south of its range. The soils it prefers are fresh to very moist deep soils and have moderate levels of soil nutrients. Amabilis fir is moisture demanding and only grows in areas where there is high precipitation and consistent moisture availability. Amabilis fir is found from southeastern Alaska to northern California in the coast and cascade mountain ranges.

Wood and form:

Amabilis fir is a medium sized tree (30-45m). The tree has a single straight stem, and a narrow crown.

Bark:

Young trees have smooth grey bark with resin blisters. The mature trees have scaly thin grey bark.

Cones:

Seed cones are 8-12cm long, cylindrical, and erect with deciduous scales.

Foliage:

Amabilis fir has branches leaving the stem at approximate right angles. The needles are flat, about 3cm long, and wide looking with 2 white lines of stomata on the underside. Needles are arranged densely with needle pointing outwards flat from the branch and needles on the top of the branch oriented towards the branch tip

Ecology:

Amabilis fir is usually further from the treeline than its associated species like mountain hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*). The seeds from amabilis fir are utilized by birds and small mammals.

Uses:

Amabilis fir is harvested for timber production. Its wood is resin free and light coloured making it good for pulping.

