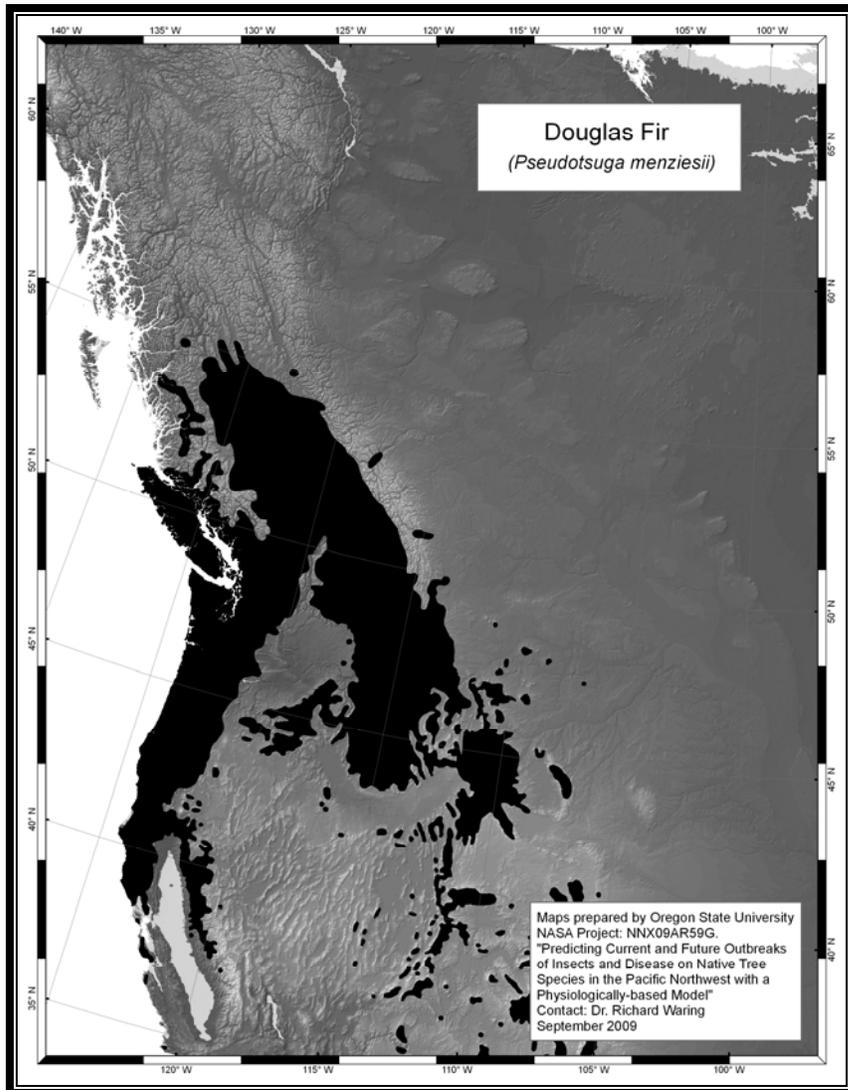


Species Silvics

Scientific Name: *Pseudotsuga menziesii*

Common Name: Douglas-fir



Climate:

Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) is found from the Pacific coast, east as far as Calgary Alberta, and from latitudes between mid British Columbia into California, and even pockets in central Mexico. Preferred soils are well drained sandy loams. The species occupies many biogeoclimatic (BEC) zones with a wide range of precipitation levels from the extremely wet coastal western hemlock zone with a mean precipitation around 2300mm annually to the dry ponderosa pine BEC with annual precipitation of about 400mm.

Subspecies

The coastal Douglas-fir (*ssp. menziesii*) grows to larger heights, while the interior subspecies (*ssp. glauca*) usually will not reach the over 80m heights of the coastal subspecies, and is distinguishable by its smaller cones and bluish foliage. Both subspecies have similar tolerances and edaphic amplitudes, but have differences in growth rates and the interior subspecies is more cold and dry hearty.

Bark

Smooth and gray with resin blisters when young bark thick and deeply grooved fire resistant bark when mature

Wood and form

Strong and hard wood with distinct color and density differentiation between early and late wood in rings. Trees have a single straight stem and can grow to heights of 80m or higher exceptional cases.

Foliage

Flat yellowish needles to 3cm long with pointed tips arranged spirally

Cones

5-10cm long with "mouse bum" three pronged bracts that are longer than cone scales

Ecology

This species is a source of both food and shelter for wintering mule deer. Large mature Douglas-fir create corridors and areas of shallower snow which reduces the energy necessary for the deer to travel. The lichens that grow on the older trees, and the boughs and twigs of foliage that fall off of the tree in the winter winds are a vital food source for the overwintering deer.

Uses

Douglas-fir is harvested for its excellent strength characteristics and is most commonly utilized in the production of dimensional lumber. Treated lumber can be used in marine applications. The strong distinction between early and late wood in the ring pattern makes the wood attractive for furniture and paneling.