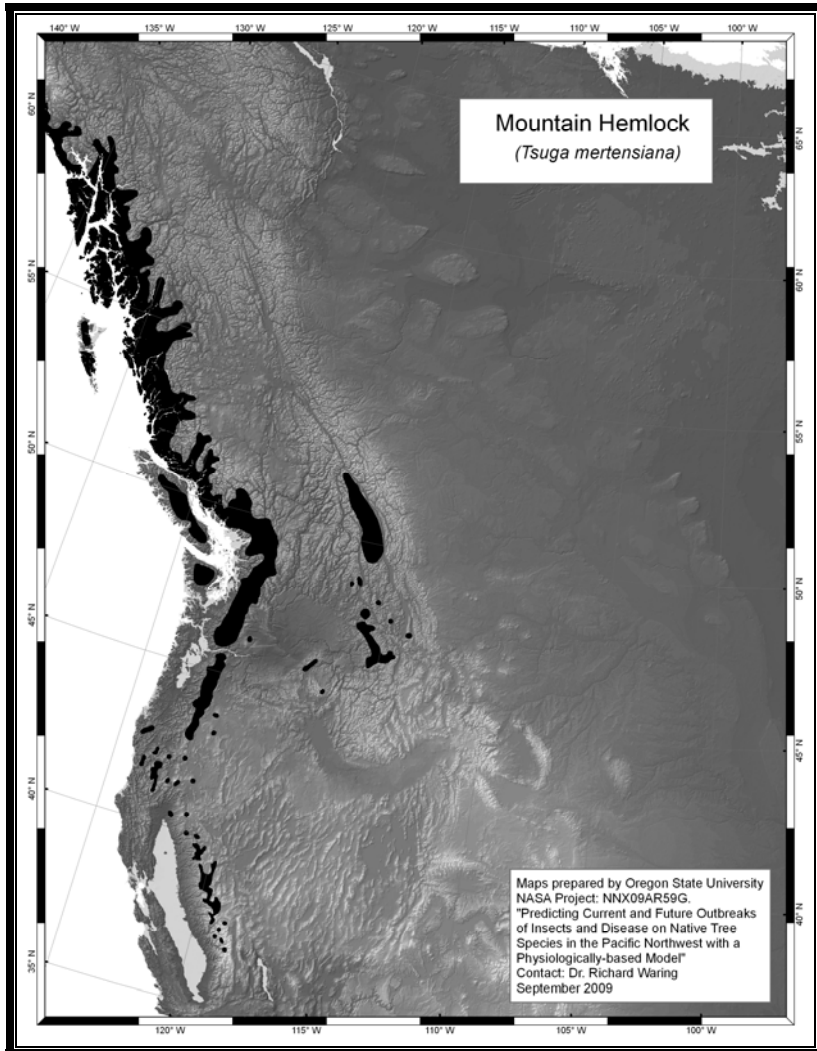


Species Silvics

Scientific Name: Mountain hemlock

Common name: *Tsuga mertensiana*



Climate:

Found in the moist subalpine forests of the cascade range from 750-1800m in northern British Columbia, in Alaska around sea level, and in patches in the cordilleran. Like western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) likes fresh to very moist soils, and poor to medium soil nutrients

Bark:

Young trees have smooth brown bark that becomes scaly and then ridged and greyish as the tree matures.

Wood:

Wood from mountain hemlock is fine grained due to its short growing seasons, and is quite hard and strong. Trees grow to 40m tall.

Cones:

Seed cones are cylindrical and 3-8cm long with purplish brown scales. Scales bend back to release seed.

Foliage:

Mountain hemlock needles are fairly short (2-3cm) and blunt arranged all around the branch. Branch tips have distinct star like needle arrangement.

Ecology:

Mountain hemlock has the ability to grow in acidic conditions that many species cannot colonize. Seeds from mountain hemlock are stored in caches as winter food by squirrels and other rodents.

Uses:

Slow growth rate and difficult access to the growing sites limit the trees usefulness as a commercial fibre source. The tree is valuable for its ability to stabilize slopes and snow fall, and for its aesthetic value on mountain slopes.