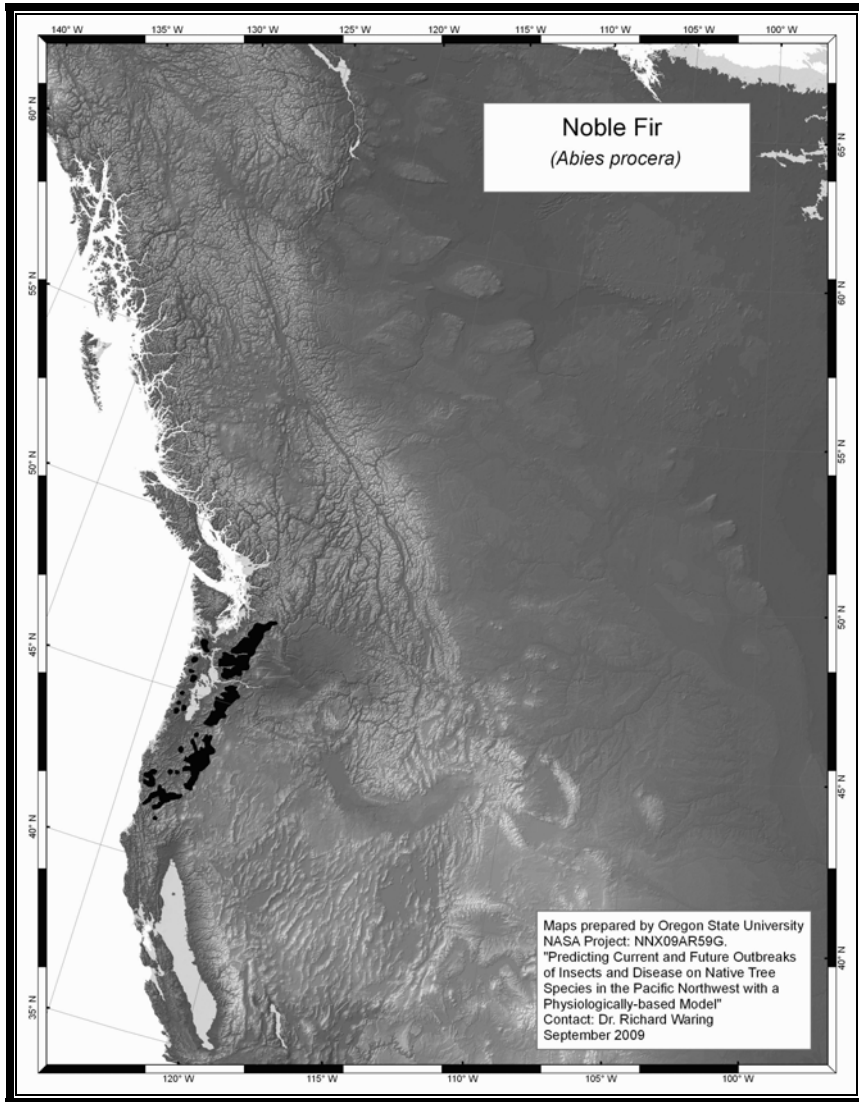


Species Silvics

Scientific Name: Noble fir

Common name: *Abies procera*



Climate:

Noble fir is found in a limited range of Washington state, Oregon, and the edge of northwest California. It is found at mid to high (300-1500m) elevations on the cascade mountains, often on thin, frequently disturbed soils. Preferred soils are moderate in both nutrient and moisture regimes.

Wood and form:

This species produces large stems to 80 tall (the largest of any true fir) with a tapered crown of slightly drooping branches. Wood is moderate in strength and weight, but stems often produce a high volume yield of straight grain, quality timber.

Bark:

Young trees have smooth gray bark with resin blisters, becoming gray and scaly with age.

Cones:

Seed cones are upright and 10-15cm tall with a barrel-like shape, large bracts, and deciduous scales.

Foliage:

Twigs have a bushy appearance with needles 2-3cm long with blunt tips. Needles on the sides point outwards and slightly forward. Needles on the upper surface cling to the twig then curve up to be at near right angles to the twig.

Ecology:

Noble fir provides snow and soil stabilization and wildlife cover on mountain slopes.

Uses:

Noble fir is used extensively in Christmas tree plantations because of its attractive foliage and full crown. The tree is also harvested for commercial timber production, pulp, and use in aesthetic construction work.