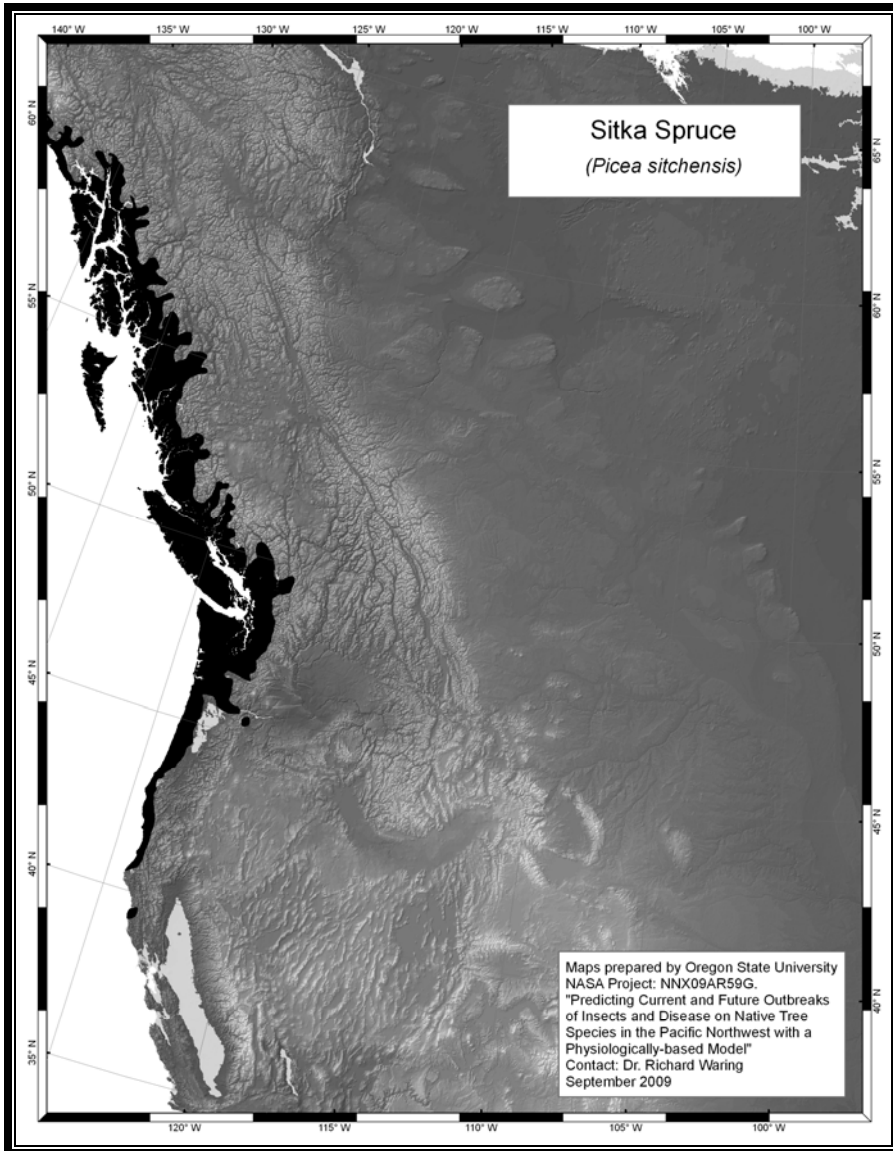


Species Silvics

Scientific Name: Sitka spruce

Common name: *Picea Sitchensis*



Climate:

Sitka spruce occurs naturally only on the hyper-maritime pacific coast. These areas are under great influence by ocean effects, and receive high levels of precipitation. The tree only grows at low elevations from sea level to 500m. Preferred soils are fresh to very moist and have rich nutrient contents. The species is tolerant of sea spray and brackish water.

Wood:

Sitka spruce trunks can grow to massive volumes and up to 90m tall in exceptional cases. Light, strong pinkish brown wood.

Bark:

Thin smooth bark when young, becoming very scaly on mature trees.

Cones:

Cylindrical seed cones 5-10 cm long with shaggy appearing yellowish green cone scales.

Foliage:

Straight sharply pointed bluish green needles 2-3cm long and leaving the branch at about 90°. Branches tend to leave the trunk at right angles.

Ecology:

Old growth forest provide nesting habitat for the endangered marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) sea bird.

Uses:

Used extensively as a lumber producing tree. Also utilized for pulp.