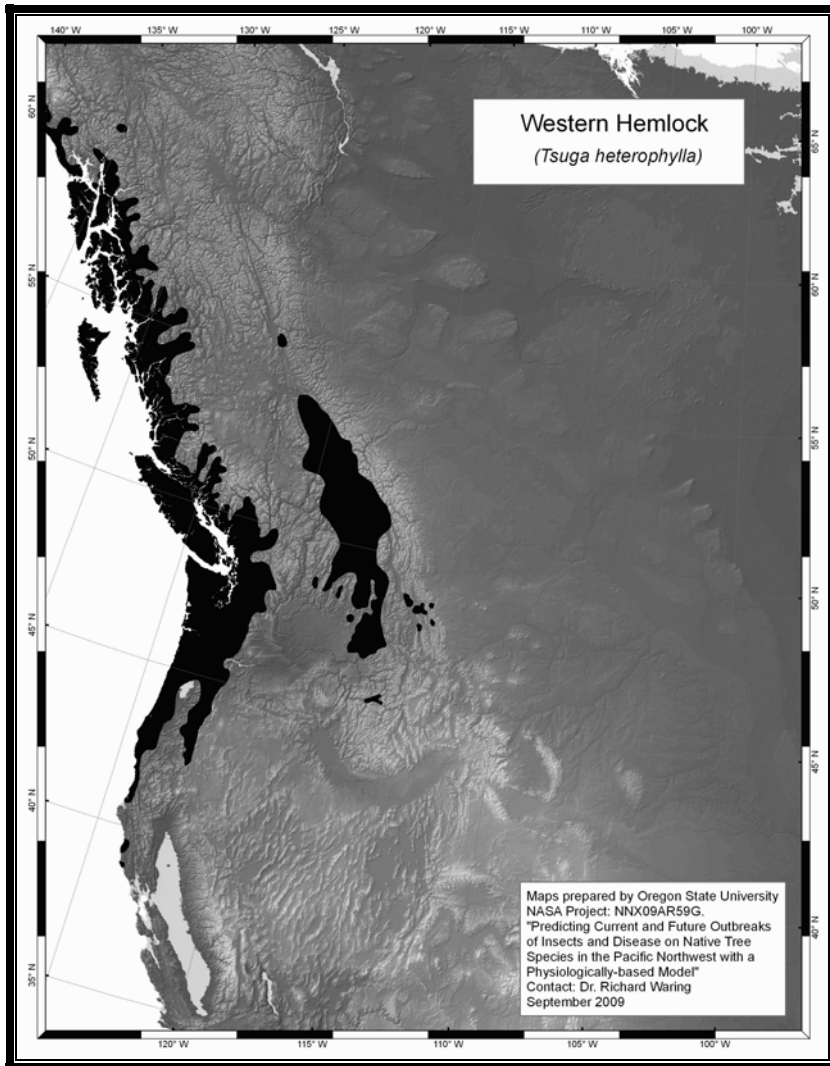


# Species Silvics

**Scientific Name:** *Tsuga heterophylla*

**Common name:** Western Hemlock



## Climate:

The range of western hemlock spans the Pacific coast from Alaska to Northern California, and in the central Cordilleran region. These areas all provide the ample moisture that is desired by the species. Preferred soils are fresh to very moist and preferred soils are poor to medium in nutrient content. Western Hemlock is very tolerant of low light conditions and regenerates very well on decaying wood, making it a dominant late successional species in the regions where it is found.

## Bark:

Smooth and reddish brown when young, deeply furrowed with scaly ridges when mature.

## Wood:

Moderately strong light coloured wood of a medium weight. Stems grow to 60m tall.

## Foliage:

The "heterophylla" species name refers to the heterogeneity of the needle lengths in the foliage which range from 5-20mm. The needles are soft and bluntly tipped with a shiny deep green upper surface.

## Cones:

Seed cones are small (20-25mm) and egg shaped with short stalks and round edged cone scales.

## Ecology:

Western hemlock has one of the densest canopies of all the tree species in its range. In young pure stands it shades out all understory foliage. In mixed stands western hemlock is one of the most common understory species often growing on decaying wood, and ready to take advantage of gap creating disturbances.

## Uses:

The wood of western hemlock is put to many uses, but not considered exceptional for one particular use. Lumber and pulp are the most common products.