

# TREES *of* BC

## Grand fir

(*Abies grandis*)



### Bark

The bark is smooth and greyish-brown with white spots and blisters filled with gummy resin when young. The bark becomes furrowed and scaly with age.

### Leaves

Needles are flat with rounded and notched ends. They are dark green and grooved on top with two white bands underneath. Needles are arranged to form flat sprays that show both the upper and lower surfaces of the twig.

### Cones

Seed cones are barrel-shaped and yellowish-green, growing upright on the branches, high in the crown. The cones shed the scales with the seeds during autumn.

### Habitat

Grand fir prefers drier climates than the other true firs in BC. In the West Kootenays, it commonly grows in mixed coniferous forests with Douglas-fir, Western hemlock, and Western white pine. On the coast, Western redcedar and flowering dogwood may also be present, with salal, Oregon-grape, western trillium, and vanilla-leaf.

80 m



## Pacific silver fir

(*Abies amabilis*)



### Bark

The bark is smooth and pale grey with blisters of pitch. It becomes scaly with age.

### Leaves

Needles have blunt ends and are usually notched at the tip. They are dark green with a groove on the upper surface and have two silvery bands on the lower surface. The needles are arranged in flattened, spray-like branches. The long needles spread horizontally from the bottom and sides of the twig while the shorter ones on the top point forward.

### Cones

Seed cones are deep purple and are held upright on branches at the top of the tree. The cones fall apart while still on the tree, leaving a central spike that is visible into winter. Pollen cones are reddish.

### Habitat

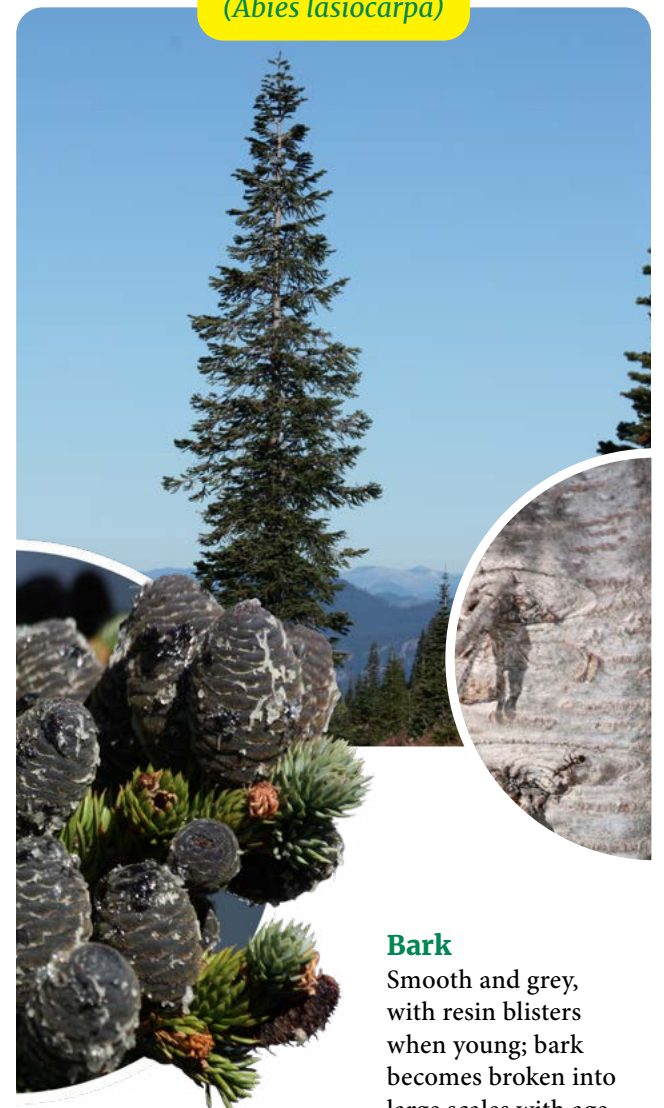
Pacific silver fir is found at low to mid elevations on the coast, where it is common in moist forests on deep, well-drained soils. It is usually found in mixtures with Western and Mountain hemlock, Yellow-cedar, and Western redcedar. It is very tolerant of shade, and small trees often grow abundantly with black huckleberry and mountain-heathers.

50 m



## Subalpine fir

(*Abies lasiocarpa*)



### Bark

Smooth and grey, with resin blisters when young; bark becomes broken into large scales with age.

### Leaves

Needles have blunt ends and are often notched at the tip. They are blue-green with a single white band on the top and two beneath. Needles all tend to turn upwards, but often a few stick out from the underside of the branch.

### Cones

Seed cones are deep purple and grow upright at the top of the crown. Like the cones of the other firs, they disintegrate on the tree, leaving a central spike. Pollen cones are bluish.

### Habitat

Subalpine fir is common in many Interior forests and is a major component of the Interior high elevation forests from the Yukon to Arizona. Cool summers, cold winters and a deep snowpack are important in determining where Subalpine fir will grow well. In the mountains and plateaus of the Interior, Subalpine fir is commonly found with spruce. Caribou eat the lichens that are found on the lower branches of these trees.

50 m

