

# TREES *of* BC

## Western hemlock

(*Tsuga heterophylla*)



### Bark

Dark brown to reddish-brown, becoming thick and strongly grooved with age.

### Leaves

Needles are nearly flat, glossy, and soft; yellow to dark green on the upper surface and whitish underneath. The needles are unequal in length and produce feathery, flat sprays.

### Cones

The small, numerous seed cones are greenish to reddish-purple and turn brown with age.

### Habitat

On the coast, Western hemlock is found from sea level to mid elevations and usually grows with many different tree species. In the wetter parts of the southern interior it is found from low to mid elevations. Occasionally, it develops in pure groups of trees after a wind has blown many trees over. Its shallow rooting system makes it susceptible to being blown over by wind as well as being damaged by fire.

50 m



PROVINCIAL RANGE



## Mountain hemlock

(*Tsuga mertensiana*)



### Bark

Dark reddish-brown, cracked and grooved into narrow ridges.

### Leaves

Needles are uniform in size, glossy, and yellow-green to deep bluish-green. They cover the branches densely on all sides or may be mostly upturned.

### Cones

Seed cones are light to deep purple (sometimes green), narrow at each end and longer than those of Western hemlock. Pollen cones are bluish.

### Habitat

Mountain hemlock grows with Pacific silver fir and Yellow-cedar on the coast and Engelmann spruce and Subalpine fir in the Interior. It is found in areas that have a deep, insulating snowpack that accumulates early in the fall; it probably cannot grow where the soil freezes. It also grows in bogs along the mid to north coast.

30 m



PROVINCIAL RANGE



## Western yew

(*Taxus brevifolia*)



### Bark

Thin, dark reddish or purplish scales shed off the trunk and expose a rose-coloured underbark.

### Leaves

Needles are flat, about 2 centimetres long, with a distinctive pointed tip; dark yellowish-green, arranged spirally on twigs but twisted so that they appear to grow in two rows.

### Cones

Seed and pollen cones usually appear on separate trees. The fruit consists of a coral-red fleshy cup that is open at one end and contains a single seed.

### Habitat

Western yew occurs on a wide variety of sites, from dry and rocky to moist depressions and ravines; it generally occurs on sites that have abundant soil nutrients. It often occurs together with Douglas-fir, Western redcedar, and Western hemlock, as well as plants such as salal, Oregon-grape, or skunk cabbage.

15 m



PROVINCIAL RANGE

