

## WACD PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

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### Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

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#### Distribution

The native range of the Coastal Douglas Fir extends from the Coastal Range of California in the south, to central British Columbia in the north. It extends from the Pacific Coast up the west slope of the Cascades to 5,000 elevations. Rocky Mountain Douglas Fir is found in mountain areas of northeastern and eastern Washington and throughout the Rocky Mountains, at elevations up to 8,000 feet.

#### Growth Habit

A large evergreen tree that can grow to over 200 feet high with a trunk diameter of 4 feet. It is a relatively fast growing tree putting on an average of 12"-23" in height per year.

#### Adaptability

Douglas Fir grows on soils that vary from moist to dry and is not very tolerant of soils that are compacted or poorly drained. Young seedlings and saplings will tolerate some shade, but require ample sunlight to reach maturity.

#### Comments

- The importance of Douglas Fir to the region cannot be understated. It is a major component of forests throughout North America, and one of the world's most valuable timber species.
- Browsing damage caused by deer, elk, and rodents can result in significant damage to young seedlings and saplings, and may require appropriate protection.
- Native Americans used the wood for fuel, fishing equipment and other tools.

