



Washington Association Of Conservation Districts

## PLANT MATERIAL CENTER

16564 Bradley Road, Bow WA 98232

Phone (360) 757-1094 • Fax (360) 757-3923 • e-mail: pmcsales@clearwire.net

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### DOUGLAS FIR

#### *Pseudotsuga menziesii*

**Scientific Name:** *Pseudotsuga menziesii* ~ There are two subspecies of Douglas Fir; the Coast Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*) which occurs along the Pacific coast and western Cascades, and the Rocky Mountain or Blue Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *glauca*) which is found further inland.



**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:** Douglas Fir can reach 200 feet high and the trunk can grow up to 4 feet in diameter.

**Adaptability:** Douglas Fir is adapted to grow throughout the range described above. It grows on soils that vary from moist to dry. It 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.

