



Washington Association Of Conservation Districts

## PLANT MATERIAL CENTER

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## WESTERN WHITE PINE

*Pinus monticola*

- Distribution:** The native range of Western White Pine extends from eastern California northwards to central British Columbia. It is most predominant in Washington State in the northeast region. They can also be found growing natively along the western slope of the Cascades and through the Puget Sound basin. Their population in this area has been reduced considerably over time though.
- Growth Habit:** Western White Pine can reach over 200 feet high and the trunk can grow up to 6 feet in diameter. In areas unaffected by White Pine Blister Rust, specimens can be found over 300 years old. Mature trees typically have long straight trunks with minimal tapering and a narrow crown.
- Adaptability:** Western White Pine is adapted to grow throughout the region at varying elevations. It tolerates a wide range of precipitation and temperature regimes. It is best suited to sites that are well drained with good exposure however.
- Comments:** Western White Pine has been a very important timber species in this region historically. It still is, but to a lesser degree due to a disease that was devastating to endemic populations. White Pine Blister Rust is a fungal disease that can kill trees across large areas. Over time, trees that have shown some resistance to this pathogen have been selected for breeding stock. Trees resulting from this process have been placed in seed orchards to produce White Pine Blister Rust resistant seeds for propagation. The PMC grows only trees that are propagated from White Pine Blister Rust resistant seed.

