

Noble Fir



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Bark: Young bark is gray and smooth with resin blisters. Older bark breaks into furrows with flat, narrow ridges.

Needles: It's easy to identify Noble Fir by looking at the underside of a twig. The needles are shaped like hockey sticks, and sweep away from the twig uniformly, giving them a combed appearance. The needles are blue-green with white on both surfaces.



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Cones: The cones sit upright on the branch near the tree top, like other firs. But Noble Fir cones have distinctive whiskery bracts that stick out beyond the scales. Since the cones fall apart at maturity, you are not likely to find any under the tree. However, you may be able to find some of the scales with their unique bracts on the ground.



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PNW Native Plant

Abies procera

Evergreen Tree Christmas Tree

General Uses:

The wood is valued for lumber due to its strength and fine grain. It has been used in airplanes and ladders because it is strong and light. Noble Fir lumber was once sold as Oregon Larch. Since fir wood had little commercial value as lumber, Noble Fir was marketed as the more highly prized larch. Several peaks called Larch Mountain are named after this tree. Noble Fir is also popular Christmas tree and often planted as an ornamental. It is arguably the most attractive of the native firs because of its symmetrical form, bluish color, and the elegant, well-groomed appearance of its needles.

Cultural Uses:

Like other firs, noble fir leaves, bark, and resin are used to build immunity, fight infection, and heal wounds.

Shade
tolerant

Thrives in
moist areas

Description

Needles: Bent like hockey sticks
Cones: 4-6" long, upright at tree top, whiskery bracts
Bark: Gray-brown becoming furrowed
Where: Above 2000 ft. in western Oregon and Washington