

Western Hemlock



New needle growth



Bark



Floppy top



Pollen cones

Immature seed cones



Mature seed cones



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PNW Native Plant

Tsuga heterophylla

Evergreen tree grows to
180 feet tall

Washington State Tree

Cultural Uses:

The "State Tree of Washington" is a really important tree. Due to its high tannin content it is used for tanning, pigment and cleansing solutions. The Coast Salish use a red dye made from the bark and as a facial cosmetic. It is easily carved into spoons, spits, combs, spear shafts and wedges. The branches are used for bedding and spawn collection. It is used extensively as medicine by most groups of the Pacific Northwest.

Part sun

Full shade

Moist to dry soils

Ecology:

Common on low to mid elevations, shade tolerant and well adapted to grow on decaying wood

General:

The Western Hemlock is shade tolerant coniferous tree but grows best on moist, humus soils. The tree grows well in shade and is a very large tree that can grow up to 180 feet tall. The wood is soft, weak and prone to splitting. A species more likely to be found growing on old nurse logs, snags and root wads. Mountain Hemlock is less shade-tolerant, has larger cones, grows to 40m tall and is found in subalpine regions. mainly in subalpine