*Pseudotsuga menziesii* - Douglasfir (*Pinaceae*)

*Pseudotsuga menziesii* is a pyramidal evergreen tree that has blue-green or bright green needles. Prized as a timber tree in Western North America, Douglasfir is alternatively used as an ornamental tree in landscapes, or as a Christmas tree.

**FEATURES**

**Form**
- large evergreen tree
- maturing at about 50' tall x 20' wide under optimum Midwestern conditions, but up to 300' tall under Pacific Northwest conditions (*P. menziesii var. menziesii*) or 125' tall under Rocky Mountain conditions (*P. menziesii var. glauca*)
- upright pyramidal growth habit in youth, developing an upright yet irregular crown with age
- medium to slow growth rate

**Culture**
- full sun to partial sun
- performs best in full sun in moist, well-drained, slightly acidic, rich, cool soils, with cool, humid summers and wind-sheltered sites in winter;
- somewhat intolerant of poor soils, dry soils, poorly drained soils, exposed sites, drought, and urban stress areas in general
- numerous potential diseases and pests of ornamental significance
- commonly available in B&B form
- Douglasfir does not naturally have the tight, formal appearance of most other Spruces or true Firs; if unsheared, it has a relatively open and loose habit in youth, similar to unsheared Hemlock or White Pine

**Foliage**
- foliage color ranges from blue-green (for the Rocky Mountain variety) to various shades of spring-green, mint green, dark green, or yellowish green (for the Pacific Northwest variety)
- evergreen, thin, flattened needles are about 1" long and arranged in 2 rows on either side of the thin stems (with an overall V-shape, known as pectinate arrangement), with 2 bands of white stomata on the needle undersides

**Flowers**
- ornamental insignificance, with the staminate flowers axillary, and the pistillate flowers terminal as purplish immature cones

**Fruits**
- cones are about 3" long, slightly curved, with unique 3-pronged seed bracts (resembling a 3-forked snake's tongue) extending beyond the cone scales, and actually being the best identification feature for the species

**Twigs**
- yellow-green during the first season, becoming gray or brown with maturity

**Trunk**
- often hidden when limbs branch to the ground, being brown-gray and smooth in youth, becoming red-brown, very thick, and deeply ridged and furrowed with age

**USAGE**

**Function**
- specimen, focal point, or screen planting

**Texture**
- medium-fine texture
- average density overall (although sections of the canopy can have an open or thick density, especially with maturity)

**Assets**
- evergreen pyramidal tree with a spring-green or blue-green needle color
- very important timber tree in portions of Western North America

**Liabilities**
- slow growth rate, coupled with a somewhat stunted growth pattern in areas without its native climatological and soil conditions, which also makes it more prone to pathogens and pests (in other words, it is not very adaptable to harsh, non-native conditions)

**Habitat**
- Zones 4 to 6
- Native to the Pacific coastal regions (Northern Mexico to Southern Canada) and Rocky Mountain regions of North America

**SELECTIONS**

**Alternates**
- evergreen pyramidal trees (members of the genera Abies, Picea, Pinus, Tsuga, etc.)

**Cultivars – Variants - Related**
- *Pseudotsuga menziesii* 'Pendula' - semi-pendulous branches with bluish-green needles