

Coast redwood *Sequoia sempervirens*



Natural distribution of coast redwood



Flattened sprays of needles and tiny cones will help you to tell the coast redwood apart from its relative, the Wellingtonia. Its fibrous bark is also slightly harder.

illustration by John White

These trees can grow to record-breaking heights.

The tallest tree on Earth is a coast redwood in America which is bigger than the Statue of Liberty. These huge trees can be over 1000 years old. Most of Bedgebury's coast redwoods are only around 80 years old – but who knows how big they might eventually grow?

These fantastic trees are threatened in the wild. They occur in a narrow strip along the Pacific coast, reliant on high rainfall and coastal fogs to gain enough moisture, so climate change could be a future threat. Coast redwood timber is also very valuable. It is strong and resists decay and so these trees are still being actively logged. We estimate that only 12% of the coastal redwood wild population is currently protected.

Staff from the National Pinetum at Bedgebury are part of the IUCN (the World Conservation Union) Conifer Specialist Group. The Group keeps an eye on the status and threats to conifers such as these and lobbies to make sure that all timber is managed in a sustainable manner.

Look for the FSC logo when buying timber products - it shows that the wood comes from sustainably-managed forests.



Did you know?

This tree's scientific name refers to the native American chief Sequoia who invented the Cherokee alphabet.

Bedgebury's coast redwoods are still growing. The boardwalk nearby helps them to do this by protecting their delicate roots from trampling.



adventure in a world of trees

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