

Douglas fir *Pseudotsuga menziesii*

This is the tallest Douglas fir in the UK, at The Hermitage, Perthshire. This tree is 64.5m tall - over 14m higher than Bedgebury's tallest tree, the Old Man of Kent.



Natural distribution of Douglas fir



Douglas fir cones have distinctive 'bracts'. Look out for the corky bark too.

illustration by John White

Timber!

Douglas fir is one of the world's most important and valuable trees for timber. Its wood is very strong and durable, and so it is highly sought-after for everything from construction to carving. Plywood in particular is more likely to be made from Douglas fir than any other timber.

The oldest Douglas firs occur in the 'old growth' forests on the west coast of North America. Some of these trees may be over five hundred years old and they can reach gigantic heights. Unfortunately their huge size means that they are also very valuable for timber. This means that some old growth forests and the wildlife that lives there are being destroyed by aggressive logging.

You can help by being sure of what timber you are buying – look for the FSC logo that shows it comes from sustainably-managed forests and support the British forestry industry by buying British timber where you can!



Did you know?

In the wild Douglas firs grow almost as tall as coast redwoods, the record holders. The biggest Douglas fir currently stands at over one hundred metres tall - larger than Big Ben and only slightly shorter than the tallest tree in the world.

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