

# *Pseudotsuga menziesii* 'Fastigiata': 'Fastigiata' Douglas-Fir<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

This cultivar of Douglas-Fir probably grows about 40 feet tall but spreads only about 10 or 15 feet in a dense, narrow pyramid in the landscape. This cultivar is denser than the species and is probably better suited for a screen planting. A row of these spaced 10 feet apart would make a striking border to block an undesirable view or to define a space on a large landscape. Douglas-Fir is most commonly used as a screen or occasionally a specimen in the landscape. Not suited for a small residential landscape, it is often a fixture in a commercial setting.

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Pseudotsuga menziesii*

**Pronunciation:** soo-doe-SOO-guh men-ZEE-zee-eye

**Common name(s):** 'Fastigiata' Douglas-Fir

**Family:** *Pinaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 5A through 6B (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** native to North America

**Invasive potential:** little invasive potential

**Uses:** screen; specimen

**Availability:** not native to North America

## Description

**Height:** 35 to 45 feet

**Spread:** 10 to 15 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical

**Crown shape:** upright/erect, columnar



Figure 1. Young *Pseudotsuga menziesii* 'Fastigiata': 'Fastigiata' Douglas-Fir

**Crown density:** dense

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** fine

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)

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Figure 2. Range

**Leaf type:** simple  
**Leaf margin:** entire  
**Leaf shape:** needle-like (filiform)  
**Leaf venation:** parallel, none, or difficult to see  
**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen, needled evergreen  
**Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** no color change  
**Fall characteristic:** not showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** red  
**Flower characteristics:** not showy

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** oval, cone  
**Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches  
**Fruit covering:** dry or hard  
**Fruit color:** brown  
**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** branches droop; not showy; typically one trunk; thorns  
**Pruning requirement:** little required  
**Breakage:** susceptible to breakage  
**Current year twig color:** green  
**Current year twig thickness:** thin, medium  
**Wood specific gravity:** 0.48

### Culture

**Light requirement:** full sun  
**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; acidic; well-drained  
**Drought tolerance:** moderate  
**Aerosol salt tolerance:** low

### Other

**Roots:** not a problem

**Winter interest:** yes  
**Outstanding tree:** no  
**Ozone sensitivity:** unknown  
**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** resistant  
**Pest resistance:** resistant to pests/diseases



Figure 3. Foliage

## Use and Management

The tree prefers a sunny location with a moist soil and is not considered a good tree for the south. It grows but struggles in USDA hardiness zone 7. Douglas-Fir transplants best when balled and burlapped and has a moderate growth rate. It tolerates pruning and shearing but will not tolerate dry soil for extended periods. Protect from direct wind for best appearance. Some occasional watering in summer dry spells will help the tree stay vigorous, especially in the southern end of its range.

Other cultivars include: 'Anguina' - long, snake-like branches; 'Brevifolia' - short leaves; 'Compacta' - compact, conical growth; 'Fretsii' - dense bush, short broad leaves; 'Glauca' - bluish foliage; 'Nana' - dwarf; 'Pendula' - long, drooping branchlets; 'Revoluta' - curled leaves; 'Stairii' - variegated leaves.

## **Pests**

Aphids infestations on small trees may be dislodged with a strong stream of water from the garden hose.

Scale and bark beetles may infest Douglas-Fir, especially those under stress.

## **Diseases**

Root rot can be a serious problem on clay and other wet soils.

Needles infected by leaf cast fungi in spring turn brown and fall off.

Several fungi cause canker diseases leading to branch dieback. Maintain tree health and prune out infected branches.