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# North Pole Forestry Division

*Everet Green*

Head of North Pole Forestry Division

Seed Name: Douglas Fir

Scientific Name: *Pseudotsuga menziesii glauca*

Grows in zones: 4 to 7

Plant height: 30-130 feet

Light requirements: full sun

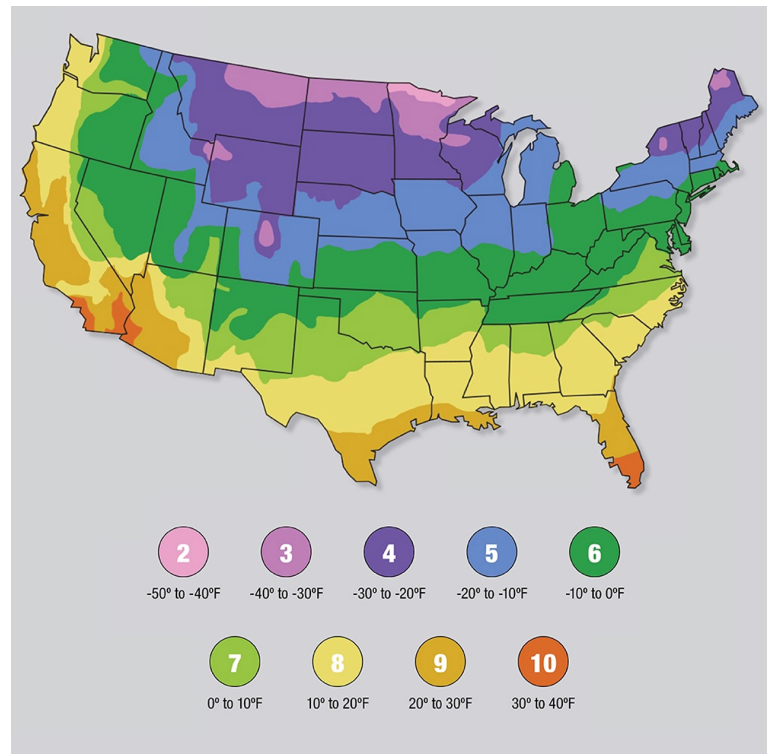
Soil & water preferences: grows well in well-drained soils.

The Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) is an evergreen conifer species in the pine family, Pinaceae. It is native to western North America and is also known as Douglas-fir, Douglas spruce, Oregon pine, and Columbian pine. Despite its common names, it is not a true fir (genus *Abies*), spruce (genus *Picea*), or pine (genus *Pinus*). It is also not a hemlock; the genus name *Pseudotsuga* means "false hemlock".

Douglas-fir prefers and grows best in moist, well-drained acidic or neutral soils in full sun. Does not like hot, or dry sites; it prefers a cooler climate. Though it will tolerate alkaline soils and road salts.

## Basic Growing Instructions:

1. Scarification: Soak in water for 24hours
2. Stratification: cold stratify for 30days
3. Germination: sow seeds 1/4" deep in soil



## Longer Growing Instructions:

Seeds of the Douglas Fir are relatively easy to germinate and grow. The dormancy within the seed is short and easily broken. This is achieved by a short period of cold stratification in the fridge. You can do this by first soaking the seeds in water for 24 hours. Fully drain away all of the water and place the seeds in a zip-lock freezer bag.

Place the seeds in the fridge, it is important that during this period that the seeds do not dry out or are waterlogged otherwise the pre-treatment will be ineffective. After between 4 and 6 weeks under these conditions the seeds are ready to be sown. In general, the seeds will fail to germinate unless treated in this way, simply sowing untreated seeds in compost at room temperature will not break down the dormancy and germination will be disappointing.

Fill your chosen container with a good quality general potting compost (or at least potting soil). Suitable containers could be plant pots, seed trays or plug trays or even improvised containers with drainage holes. Firm the compost gently and sow the seeds on the surface. If you are sowing in plug trays, sow 1 or 2 seeds per cell.

Cover the seeds with a couple of millimeters of vermiculite or failing that a fine layer of sieved compost. Follow with a gentle watering and keep them at room temperature.

Germination will begin a few weeks after sowing. The seedlings are reasonably robust and trouble free and usually grow to a height of between 5 and 12 cm in the first growing season depending on the sowing date and cultural techniques. Densely sown seedlings are at risk from fungal diseases such as "damping off" which can cause rapid loss of many seedlings.

Developing seedlings should be fine in full sun, keep them well watered and free of competing weeds.

Growth will accelerate rapidly in the second and subsequent years and the developing young trees should be reported as necessary preferably during the dormant season. After perhaps 2 years they are ready to be planted in their permanent position.

This species will grow very large, very rapidly so plant it well away from buildings, power lines, etc.

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Longer Growing Information from:

[https://www.treeseedonline.com/store/p102/Douglas-Fir\\_%28pseudotsuga\\_menziesii%29.html](https://www.treeseedonline.com/store/p102/Douglas-Fir_%28pseudotsuga_menziesii%29.html)

About Info From:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas\\_fir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_fir)

Growing Zones Graphic from:

<https://www.homedepot.com/c/ai/find-your-usda-plant-hardiness-zone/9ba683603be9fa5395fab90108cf77fc>