

Douglas-fir Species Overview

Douglas-fir (sometimes called red fir) is a very adaptable species and suitable for nearly all site types in the Inland Northwest, from dry ridges to wet areas.

Tree Planting Properties of Douglas-fir

1. Species Overview

- Douglas-fir is found in nearly all forest types in the Inland Northwest ranging from dry valley areas mixed with Ponderosa Pine to wetter areas with western hemlock.
- The species is drought-hardy and is generally more prevalent on medium productivity or mildly dry sites.

2. Fire Resistance

- The species has thick "corky" bark in maturity which provides fire resistance to low ground fires by insulating the cambium. The species is fire-adapted to survive fires that would kill other species like grand fir.



Thick corky bark provides fire resistance

3. Strong Wood Quality

- The species is prized for its wood quality and it generally has the highest log prices after cedar.
- The wood is able to be dried quickly, has high dimensional stability and has high strength.
- Favorable wood properties allow Douglas-fir to be used in specialty applications such as in plywood and in large beams. These specialty products generally come with premium log prices.

4. Risks of Deer and Elk Browse and Root Rot

- Douglas-fir can be vulnerable to browse by deer and elk during late winter / early spring, so browse protection like bud caps or tree tubes is often recommended.
- The species is susceptible to root rot disease, so if your harvest unit had a history of root rot it may be better to consider different less-susceptible species in the root rot areas.



Douglas-fir beam construction applications



8 cubic inch
Douglas-fir
seedling