



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

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson<sup>2</sup>

### **INTRODUCTION**

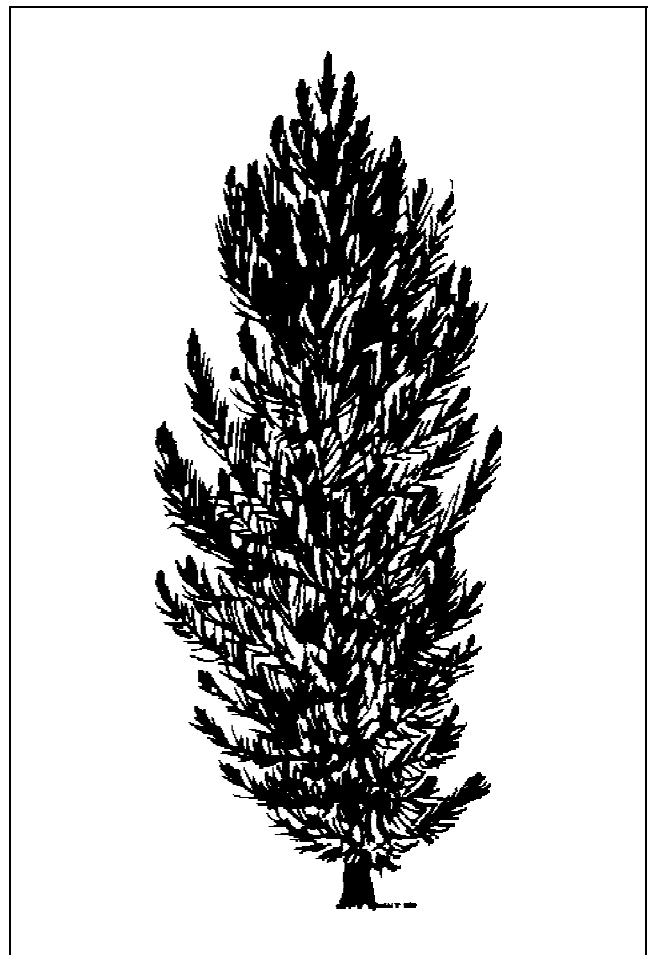
This cultivar of Douglas-Fir probably grows about 40 feet tall but spreads only about 10 or 15 feet in a dense, narrow pyramid in the landscape (Fig. 1). This cultivar is denser than the species and is probably better suited for a screen planting. A row of these spaced 10 feet apart would make a striking 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* 'Fastigiata'  
**Pronunciation:** soo-doe-SOO-guh men-ZEE-zee-eye  
**Common name(s):** 'Fastigiata' Douglas-Fir  
**Family:** *Pinaceae*  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 5 through 6 (Fig. 2)  
**Origin:** native to North America  
**Uses:** screen; specimen; no proven urban tolerance  
**Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

### **DESCRIPTION**

**Height:** 35 to 45 feet  
**Spread:** 10 to 15 feet  
**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms  
**Crown shape:** columnar; upright  
**Crown density:** dense



**Figure 1.** Young 'Fastigiata' Douglas-Fir.

**Growth rate:** medium  
**Texture:** fine

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-527, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October 1994.
2. Edward F. Gilman, associate professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Dennis G. Watson, associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611.



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

### Foliage

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

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** needle-like (filiform)

**Leaf venation:** none, or difficult to see; parallel

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen; needle leaf evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** red

**Flower characteristics:** inconspicuous and not showy

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** oval

**Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** brown

**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; no significant litter problem; showy

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; not particularly showy; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns

**Pruning requirement:** needs little pruning to develop a strong structure

**Breakage:** susceptible to breakage either at the crotch due to poor collar formation, or the wood itself is weak and tends to break

**Current year twig color:** green

**Current year twig thickness:** medium; thin

**Wood specific gravity:** 0.48

### Culture

**Light requirement:** tree grows in full sun

**Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; acidic; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** low



Figure 3. Foliage of 'Fastigiata' Douglas-Fir.

### Other

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** tree has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

**Outstanding tree:** not particularly outstanding

**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** not known to be susceptible

**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

## 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 direc 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.