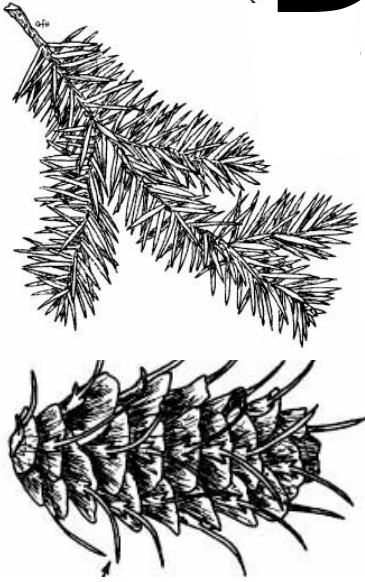


## Plants of the Month: March

# Douglas Fir



*Pseudotsuga menziesii*

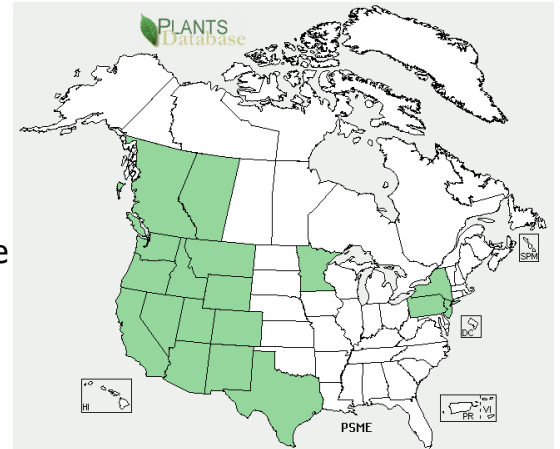
Evergreen coniferous tree

Look for: Single green needles, 1 inch long, encircle the stem. Soft, flexible.

Cones up to 4 inches. Bracts (shaped like mouse tails) protect the seeds.

Bark thick, rough, and deeply furrowed on mature trees.

How big: up to 300 feet tall (second tallest trees in the world), trunk as wide as 4 to 5 feet. Live 500—1000 years. (Douglas firs have been around since the time of the dinosaurs.)



Uses: Deer, elk, and rodents eat young seedlings and saplings. Chipmunks, mice, shrews squirrels, and birds eat seeds. Northern spotted owls and red tree voles live in large Douglas Firs. Historically, native Americans used for building, basket, and medicine. Modern Americans use for: Houses, furniture, fences, flooring, paper, and Christmas trees.