

# Douglas fir

*Pseudotsuga menziesii*



## Identification

- Large conifer up to 50m tall with a rough trunk
- Needles surround drooping branchlets
- Needles have distinctive Douglas fir scent
- Hanging cones are up to 10cm long with alternating bigger round and smaller pointy, papery scales

## Where is it found?

In gardens, plantations, native shrubland, tussock grassland and regenerating forest. It is the second most important forestry species in New Zealand.



Douglas fir invading beech forest Photo: Manfred von Tippelskirch

## Similar species

Many true fir species look similar but have cones that sit upright on branches. There are similar-looking spruce species with hanging cones but the cones lack the small pointy scales.

## Control

Hand pull small plants. Trees too big to be pulled can be sprayed with herbicide. Cut bigger trees near ground level removing **all** green needles from the stump and leave cut tree to rot. Alternatively ring-bark, or bore and fill trees. Use all herbicides in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and ensure no herbicide comes into contact with other plants, the soil or waterways. After initial control follow up for several years.

For more information on control refer to

- ECan: <http://ecan.govt.nz/advice/your-business/farming/Pages/wilding-trees-eradication-control.aspx>
- [www.wildingconifers.org.nz](http://www.wildingconifers.org.nz)



Douglas fir needles Photo: Manfred von Tippelskirch



Douglas fir mature and immature cones Photo: Manfred von Tippelskirch

## Why is it a problem?

Douglas fir is one of the “wilding conifers” that are rapidly invading the high country in certain locations. It is fast growing, long-lived, shade tolerant and produces masses of wind-dispersed seeds. It is capable of invading grasslands, and shrub communities up to the native tree line—in the long term displacing them entirely. It also invades beech forests, especially after disturbance.



Mature Douglas fir and trunk Photo: Manfred von Tippelskirch