

# COAST REDWOOD

Looking up, you strain to see the tops of the towering tree trunks around you but they disappear into the mist above. It's summer but it feels cool in the shade of northern California's coast redwood forests, blanketed by year-round fog.

**The tallest tree on Earth, the endangered coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) can reach dizzying heights of over 115 metres (377 feet) tall and live for over 2,000 years!** They are so tall, their vascular system struggles to send water and nutrients from the roots to the highest branches. So, the coast redwood has adapted to having its head in the clouds by absorbing moisture from fog through tiny pores called stomata on the surface of its leaves. **In dry summer months, up to 45% of their water is absorbed through their leaves!**

The few remaining coast redwood forests are threatened by climate change, which reduces the coastal fog they need to survive. While protecting these forests is critical, arboreta and botanical gardens like VanDusen, are also helping to conserve these trees *ex situ*, outside their natural habitat.

Cypress Family – Cupressaceae | Conservation status: Endangered



19 coast redwoods, Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Northern California.



Tiny seed cones of the world's tallest tree.

