

ćseyəʔp, ch'shay' DOUGLAS-FIR

Douglas-fir is known as ćseyəʔp in hənqəminəm and ch'shay' in skwxwú7mesh, the languages of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. For thousands of years, they have used its wood for fuel, construction, tools and ceremonial items, while the pitch is used as a waterproof sealant and salve to treat colds.

The tallest tree in Canada, Coastal Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*) grows in the Pacific temperate rainforest, where it can reach 5 metres (16 feet) wide, 120 metres (393 feet) tall and live for over 1,000 years. Its smaller cousin, Rocky Mountain Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *glauca*), grows east of the Coast and Cascade mountains.

Check out the tree trunks on display to see this conifer's characteristic grooved bark. They were molded from a real Douglas-fir tree! **According to a traditional origin story, the mother Douglas-fir tree offered shelter to mice who were fleeing a forest fire and when they hid inside her cones, they became the three-pointed cone bracts. Can you see tiny mouse tails and hind legs peeking out from the cones on display?**

Pine Family – Pinaceae | Conservation status: Least Concern



Can you see mouse tails and hind legs peeking out from the Douglas-fir cone?
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