

Native & Ornamental Trees for Southern Oregon Forests and Landscapes
SOREC Forestry Note #1

	Growth ¹	Tolerance level ²				
		Shade	Browse	Wet soils	Drought	Frost
CONIFERS						
Douglas-fir	M	M	M	L	M	M
Incense cedar	S	M	L	L	H	H
Jeffrey pine	S	L	H	M	H	H
Ponderosa pine	S-M	L	H	M	H	H
Sugar pine	S-M	M	H	L	M	M
White/grand fir	S-M	H	H	M	M	M
HARDWOODS						
Bigleaf maple	M-F	H	L	L	M	M
Black cottonwood	VF	L	L	H	L	M
California black oak	S	L	H	L	H	M
Oregon ash	S	M	M	H	M	M
Oregon white oak	S	L	H	M	H	M
Pacific madrone	M	L	H	L	H	M
Red/white alder	M-F	L	M	H	L	L

¹ **Growth**

Relative growth rate of young trees.

² **Tolerance of major SW Oregon species to environmental stresses**

H=high, M=medium, L=low

Other natives:

Port-Orford-cedar. Western Josephine County, higher precipitation zone. Beautiful foliage, very shade tolerant. Various cultivars grown as ornamentals throughout world. Very susceptible to root disease.

Shasta red fir. Close cousin to white fir. Grows at high elevations. Good Christmas tree. Not drought or heat tolerant.

Western white pine. Another higher elevation tree. Very frost tolerant.

Lodgepole pine. Very tolerant of frost, swampy soils. Found mostly at higher elevations.

Tanoak. Grows in western Josephine County. Very shade tolerant, a prolific sprouter.

Canyon live oak. As the name suggests, found in the canyon country.

Chinkapin. Not abundant, found in upland forests. Beautiful wood.

For reforestation:

For droughty sites, ponderosa pine and Jeffrey pine are the best. Incense cedar is also fairly drought tolerant, though not as much as the pines. For north slopes and higher precipitation zones, Douglas-fir is a good choice. White fir is suited to higher elevation areas. For streamside areas, alder, cottonwood, ash, and maple are good choices. Maple can also be planted on upland sites in higher precipitation zones (35"+ per annum). When planted in the appropriate area,

these species should not require summer watering, except perhaps during the establishment phase or during periods of exceptional drought.

Fire resistant trees for home landscapes and backyard woodlots

Fire resistant plants are those that don't readily ignite from a flame or other ignition sources. Of the natives listed, the hardwoods are generally fire resistant due to having foliage with a high moisture content and water-like sap. Canyon live oak might be an exception due to its tendency to accumulate dry, dead material. Of the conifers, the pines are the most fire-resistant.

Christmas trees:

Douglas-fir or Scotch pine is the best option for lower elevation areas in Jackson Co; in higher precipitation zones and at higher elevations, true firs (e.g., Shasta fir and white fir) may be grown. Scotch pine is more drought and heat tolerant than Douglas-fir.

Non-native species:

Redwood is poorly suited to the area due to our hot, dry climate, but may be successful further west in higher precipitation areas. Frost is also a concern.

Giant sequoia is worth considering for droughty sites.

KMX (knobcone – Monterrey pine cross) has excellent growth and drought resistance, but can be susceptible to needle diseases and western gall rust.

Leyland cypress is increasingly used for hedgerow plantings and screens. Fast growth, good drought tolerance, but longevity is questionable.

Junipers are not recommended because of their highly flammable foliage.