

Large Tree (over 40')
Evergreen

Map #29

White Fir
(*Abies concolor*)
Family: *Pinaceae*



Leaves: evergreen needles with a whitish coating; bluish green when young (become dull with age), 1-3 inches long, flattened, curving upwards.

Buds: resinous, broadly conical to rounded; scales closely overlapping.

Stems: finely fuzzy or shiny and smooth the first year; yellow green, becoming gray or gray-green; leaf scars circular.

Bark: ash gray with deep irregular furrows.

Flowers: male flowers and female flowers on the same plant; male red.

Fruits: cones, 3-6 inches long, upright; pale green (often with a purplish bloom); fan-shaped scales.

Habit: A beautiful conifer with long, soft, bluish needles and a neat, dense habit.; conical; branched to base; upper branches ascending, lower branches level or descending.

Culture: Unlike most firs, *A. concolor* tolerates relatively hot dry sites. Performs badly in heavy clay soils. Full sun to light shade. The white fir prefers moist, well-drained sandy-loam soils. Although it has a shallow and wide-spreading root system, it is not as susceptible to drought as most other firs. It is relatively maintenance free, and is a probably the best fir for Midwest region. No serious pests. Valued for its silvery green foliage, the formal habit makes it useful as a specimen tree, for screening, or in mass plantings.

Credits: Photos from: www.midwestlandscapeplants.org and various other .edu websites unless noted. **Text from:** "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants" by Michael Dirr; "Tree Identification Characteristics (abridged)" from the University of Illinois Extension; www.midwestlandscapeplants.org; and misc. other sources. This publication may not be sold except to cover the cost of reproduction when used as part of an educational program of the University of Wisconsin-Extension.