



Sequoia sempervirens Coast Redwood¹

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INTRODUCTION

Sequoia sempervirens, the Coast Redwoods of California, are the tallest trees in the world (Fig. 1). They can vary greatly when grown from seed, but varieties are available now which have been vegetatively propagated and they retain true characteristics. Redwoods grow three to five feet per year and are remarkably pest-free. They live to be many hundreds of years old; some live to several thousand years. Bark is particularly beautiful, turning a bright orange on older trees. It may grow poorly in zones 9 and 10 in Florida.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Sequoia sempervirens*
Pronunciation: see-KWOY-uh sem-per-VYE-renz
Common name(s): Coast Redwood
Family: *Taxodiaceae*
USDA hardiness zones: 7 through 10A (Fig. 2)
Origin: native to North America
Uses: screen; specimen; no proven urban tolerance
Availability: grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

DESCRIPTION

Height: 60 to 120 feet
Spread: 25 to 35 feet
Crown uniformity: symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms
Crown shape: pyramidal
Crown density: moderate

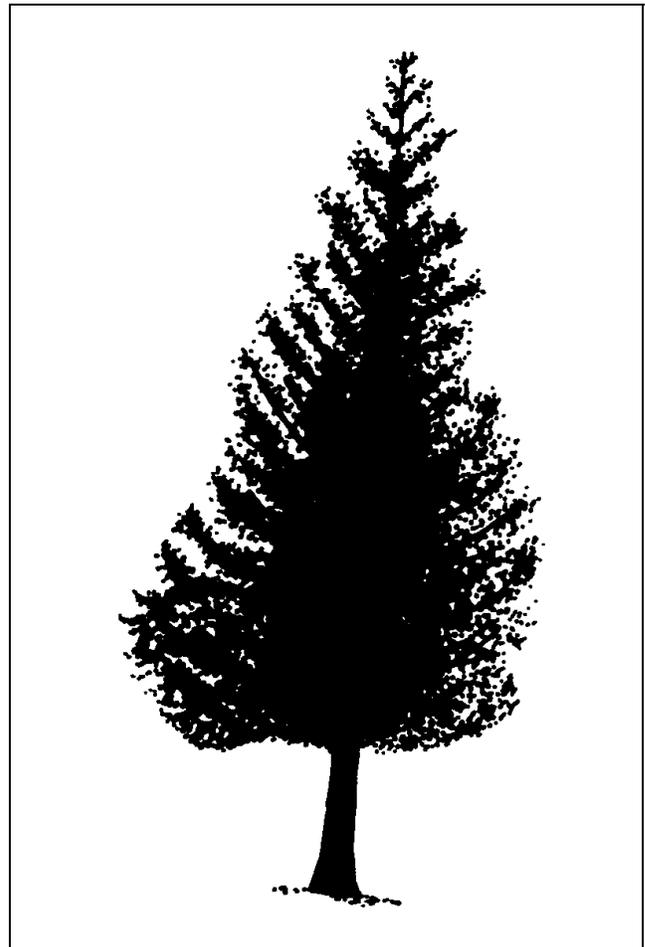


Figure 1. Mature Coast Redwood.

Growth rate: medium
Texture: fine

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

- Leaf arrangement:** alternate; spiral
- Leaf type:** simple
- Leaf margin:** entire
- Leaf shape:** needle-like (filiform)
- Leaf venation:** none, or difficult to see; parallel
- Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen; needle leaf evergreen
- Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches
- Leaf color:** green
- Fall color:** no fall color change
- Fall characteristic:** not showy

Flower

Flower characteristics: inconspicuous and not showy

Fruit

- Fruit shape:** oval; round
- Fruit length:** .5 to 1 inch
- Fruit covering:** dry or hard
- Fruit color:** brown

Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; inconspicuous and not showy; no significant litter problem

Trunk and Branches

- Trunk/bark/branches:** droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; should be grown with a single leader; very showy trunk; no thorns
- Pruning requirement:** needs little pruning to develop a strong structure
- Breakage:** resistant
- Current year twig color:** brown; green
- Current year twig thickness:** medium; thin
- Wood specific gravity:** 0.35

Culture

- Light requirement:** tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in full sun
- Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; slightly alkaline; acidic; occasionally wet; well-drained
- Drought tolerance:** moderate

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem

Winter interest: tree has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

Outstanding tree: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time

Ozone sensitivity: tolerant

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: not known to be susceptible

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Redwood maintains a pyramidal form and dark green foliage throughout the year. Planted in a row 15 to 20 feet apart they make a nice screen. In areas outside California and the Northwest, it is probably best used occasionally as a novelty specimen.

Redwood is tolerant of flooding, making best growth along stream banks and flood plains. Irrigation helps maintain a vigorous tree in other sites. Allow plenty of soil space for proper development.

Propagation is possible from seed and through vegetative propagation.

Pests

Few insects were noted for *Sequoia* species.

Diseases

No diseases are of major concern.

Sequoia sempervirens is resistant to oak root fungus.