

# *Sequoia sempervirens* Coast Redwood<sup>1</sup>

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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

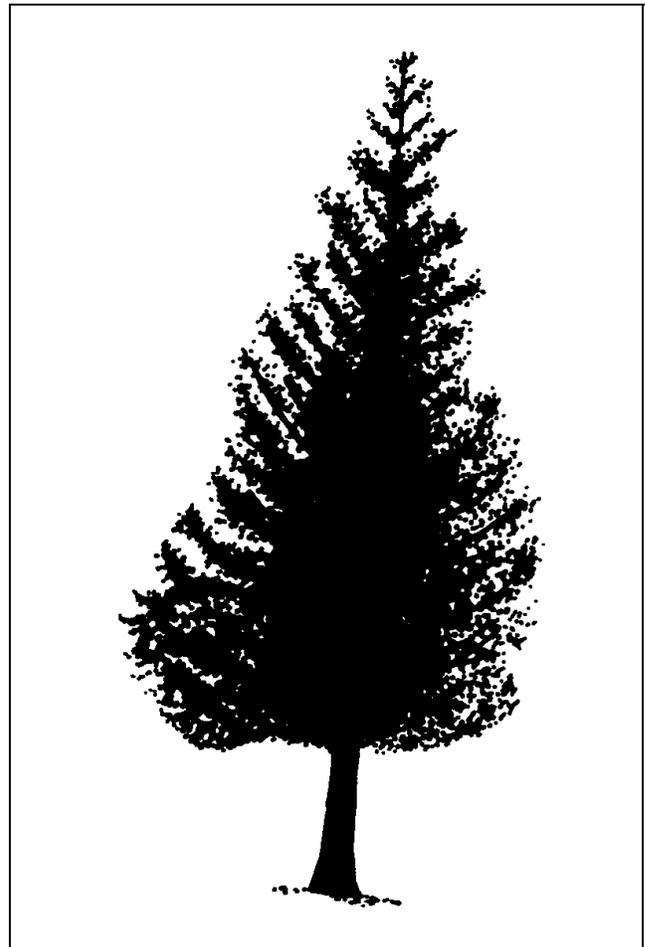


Figure 1. Mature Coast Redwood.

**Growth rate:** medium  
**Texture:** fine

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-589, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October 1994.
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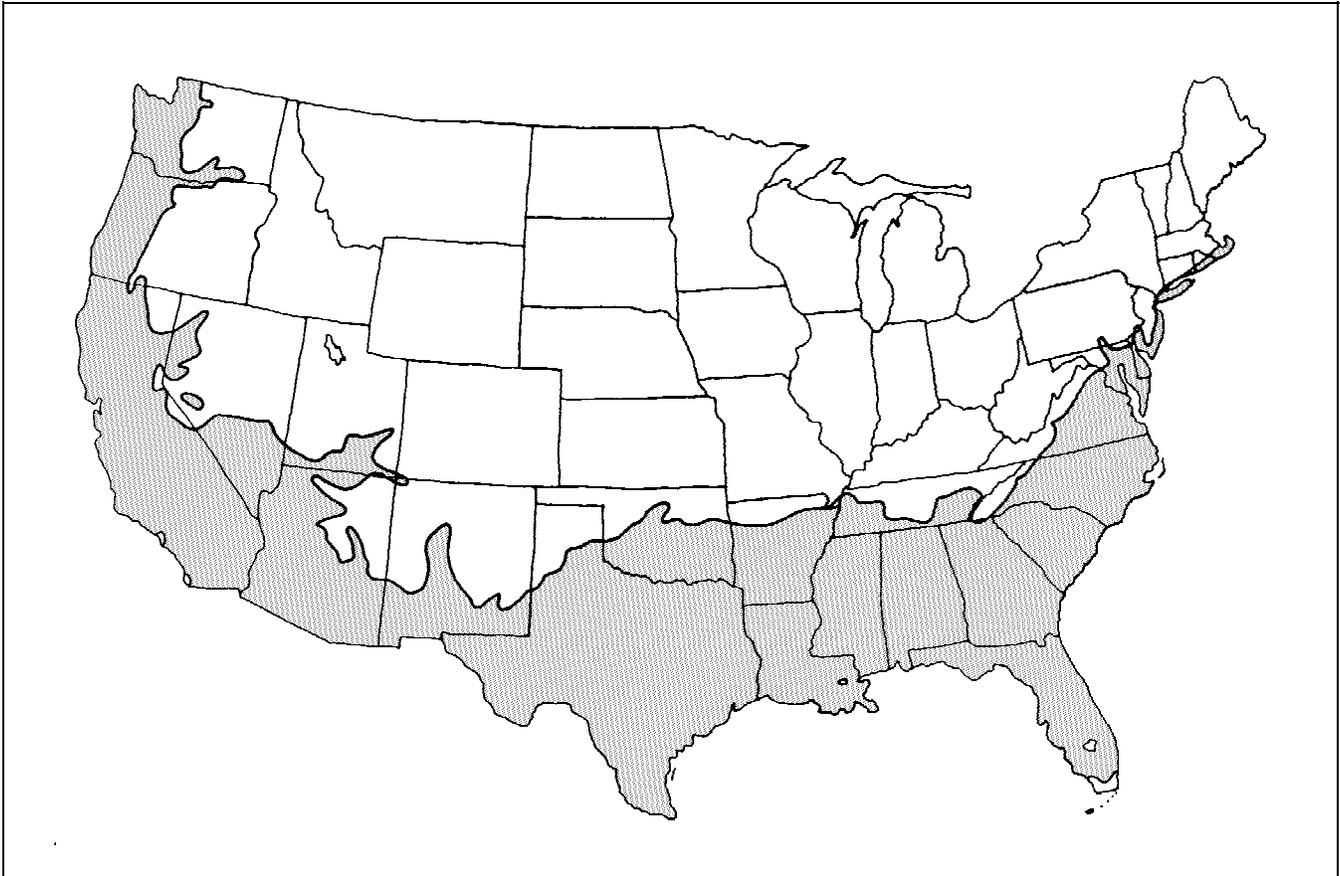


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**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.