



Overview

Western Red Cedar is a large, long lived, slow growing, evergreen tree that is found in moist micro-climates, often in riparian areas or wet lowlands, along the Pacific Coast from Southern Oregon all the way up to British Columbia. It is a highly shade tolerant species that can be present in all stages of forest succession.



Western Red Cedar *Thuja plicata*

Links to the National Champion Tree Program website and the references used



NATIONAL CHAMPION
TREE PROGRAM

Importance

Western Red Cedar is of huge cultural importance for many of the first nations that overlap with its range. Additionally, it is an important browse species for many game animals, such as black tailed deer and elk. They also provide thermal cover for many other species, including shading streams for salmon. The wood from the trees is also economically important as it is very rot resistant.

Threats

In recent years, declines in Western Red Cedar have been noted across its range, primarily in more exposed and lower elevation sites. This is an example of the negative effects climate change is having on our forests. Western Red Cedar is not a drought tolerant species. It has very shallow spreading roots and little cutin and wax protects its leaves from excessive transpiration. This has resulted in many trees falling victim to the hotter and drier summers the PNW has been experiencing in recent years. There are still many areas where micro-climates are suitable for Western Red Cedar and where these trees are still doing well, however as the climate continues to change, more of these trees are expected to suffer.

Current Champion Tree Statistics

- Nominated in 2018
- Circumference: 746 inches
- Height: 163.67 feet
- Crown Spread: 48 feet
- Located in Clallam County, WA

