

Abies concolor

[Synonyms : *Picea concolor*, *Pinus concolor*]

COLORADO FIR is an evergreen tree. Native to western North America (particularly the Rocky Mountains) it has needle-like leaves and cylindrical green or purple cones.

It is also known as *Coloradogran* (Swedish), *Colorado Tanne* (German), Colorado white fir, *Grautanne* (German), *Harmaapihta* (Finnish), *Jedl'a srienstá* (Slovak), *Jedle ojiněná* (Czech), *Jedle stejnobarvá* (Czech), *Kalifornisk ädelgran* (Swedish), *Koloradogran* (Swedish), *Kolorado-Tanne* (German), Silver fir, and White fir.

Warning – prolonged contact with the fresh wood may cause dermatitis.

Concolor means 'wholly of the same colour' with reference to the leaf surfaces.

North American Hopi Indians included the needle-like leaves in tobacco mixtures smoked during rituals. The Tewa made pipe-stems out of the twigs. Fibre from the branches was used by the Mewuk of central California to line their acorn hides, and the bark yielded a tan buckskin dye for the Klamath North American Indians.

Some of the Keresan tribe decorated their homes with colorado fir, and they also used it for decoration at dance venues.

The lightweight wood is used commercially today for timber, and paper pulp, as well as the manufacture of plywood, and boxes and crates. Apart from this the soft, pale brown to white wood used also to be fashioned into butter tubs and was once sought after for building interiors.

Medicinally, the bark, sap, needles and resin seem to have been used on a limited scale by a few North American Indian tribes. For instance the bark was used for treating some lung disorders and tuberculosis by Shoshoni, Paiute and Washo tribes, the Tewa applied the sap to cuts, an infusion of the needles was valued by some of the Keresan for easing rheumatism, and the resin (in different forms) was applied in poultices to cuts, sores or boils and taken internally for lung problems by the Paiute, Shoshoni and Washo. In addition the Paiute took a decoction of Colorado fir for some venereal complaints.