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Pseudotsuga macrocarpa

[Synonyms : *Abies douglasii* var. *macrocarpa*, *Abies macrocarpa*, *Pseudotsuga californica*, *Pseudotsuga douglasii* var. *macrocarpa*]

BIGCONE DOUGLAS FIR is an evergreen tree. Native to the south-western Californian mountains (United States) it has needle-like leaves and long cylindrical blunt-ended, dark brown cones.

It is also known as Bigcone Douglas spruce, Bigcone spruce, Desert fir, False hemlock, Hemlock, and Large-coned Douglas fir.

The leaves are slightly aromatic when crushed. When mature the cones open to release the seeds..

The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

Macrocarpa is made up of Greek *macro-* (large, long) and *carpo-* (fruit) components meaning 'large-fruited'.

In the past the heavy, hard wood has been burnt locally as fuel.

The tree has been planted in reforestation and watershed restoration programmes in the south-western United States. It has also been cultivated in Hawaii.

Bigcone Douglas fir provides habitat for deer, bears and small animals. (In the Spring black bear can be found among them in the San Bernadino Mountains south-east of Los Angeles.) The seeds are eaten by birds, squirrels, chipmunks and other rodents such as mice.

It was introduced to Britain in about 1910