

Mixed Evergreen and Coniferous Forest- Trees

Incense Cedar

{Cedro de incenso}

Libocedrus decurrens

CUPRESSACEAE. Cypress Family

Feel the ends of the branches and scalelike leaves which appear to have been ironed flat. Smell the aromatic wood and foilage. How might this tree be used by people everyday?

This cedar is named for its fragrant aroma and is fairly large, reaching a height of 60-150 ft (18-46m) with a trunk diameter of 3-5 feet (0.9-1.5m). The shiny green, scalelike leaves are only 1/8-1/2 in (3-12mm) long. At the end of a slender leafy stalk, you may find a small reddish-brown cone with 4 or fewer winged seeds inside. These acorns were ground into meal which was leached until it turned pink. A leaching frame was made of cedar twigs to give it a spicy taste and take out the bitterness. The fragrant wood is still used to make cedar chests and closets. Pencils are also manufactured from cedar because the wood is soft but not splintery, and it can be sharpened in any direction.



Libocedrus decurrens
INCENSE CEDAR

Monterey Cypress

{Cipres de Monterey}

Cupressus macrocarpa

CUPRESSACEAE. Cypress Family

Feel the scaly leaves, the rough trunk, and the woody fruit. How tall and wide will this tree grow? How big are the seeds?

This cypress is a medium-sized tree which can grow 60-80 feet (18-24 m) in height and have a grey, rough trunk 2-4 feet (0.6-1.2m) in diameter. The tree crown is symmetrical when young or protected, yet becomes gnarled and flat-topped when exposed to the high winds and salt sprays of the seacoast. The leaves are a bright evergreen, blunt, and scalelike to protect it from water loss. It bears roundish, woody, dark brown cones with 8-12 stout-pointed, hard scales which rarely open until dried by heat, fire, or the death of the tree. Inside are many shiny, dark brown seeds. Native groves of Monterey Cypress are protected in Point Lobos and Point Cypress in the Del Monte Forest.



Cupressus macrocarpa
MONTEREY CYPRESS

Madrone

{Madrono}

Arbutus menziesii

ERICACEAE. Heath Family

Observe the details of this colorful tree while thinking about how people and animals have utilized it in the past and present.

Madrone is one of the most beautiful flowering evergreen trees growing 20-80 feet high with its reddish peeling bark and broad oval leaves. White urn-shaped flowers bloom in spring, and orange-red fruit matures in autumn. Native Americans made a cold medicine tea from the leaves, bark, or roots. They ate the fruit raw or cooked. Sometimes they dried and stored the cooked fruit as eating too much caused cramps. Deer and birds eat the fruit too, while the flowers are a source of honey for bees.



Pacific Wax Myrtle - Bayberry {Mirto Pacifico}

Myrica californica

MYRICACEAE. Myrtle Family

Crush some leaves of this small tree and smell its protective aroma. How does aroma protect a plant? Look for two colors of flowers in early spring and tiny wax bayberries in early autumn.

This many-branched shrub or small tree can reach a height of 10-25 feet and a trunk diameter of 1 foot. The lance shaped leaves are evergreen and saw-toothed with a short pointed tip. The upper leaf side is shiny dark green while the underside is yellow green with small black gland dots. In early spring tiny yellowish male flowers bloom at the base of lower leaves. Tiny reddish-green female flowers bloom at the base of the upper leaves. In early autumn, several warty brownish purple fruit with a whitish wax coat grow along a stalk.



Monterey Pine

{Pino de Monterey}

Pinus radiata

PINACEAE. Pine Family

Observe these trees with all your senses. How might they be helped by forest fires while hurt by fungus and beetles?

This local pine grows rapidly to a height of 50-100 feet (15-30m). Its rounded crown is open and irregular with a contorted reddish brown trunk 1-3 feet (0.5-0.9 m) in diameter. The evergreen 5" long needles grow in bundles of 3 and are adapted to live through cold and drought. The egg-shaped cones grow in clusters and remain closed on the tree for many years only releasing their small, long winged seeds with a popping sound during a fire or extremely hot weather. They grow in sandy soils of the California coastal fog belt from Santa Cruz to San Luis Obispo Counties. Since 1986, Monterey and Bishop Pines have been threatened with pitch pine canker which is a fungus disease that spreads through twig, cone, and bark beetles. Infected trees have browning branch tips, abundant resin flow, and/or nodules on the trunk and cones. Pitch canker will kill the trees and eventually the forests.



Coastal Redwood

{Secoya Costal}

Sequoia sempervirens

TAXODIACEAE. Sequoia Family

Why is this called redwood? What is the shape of the needles and cones? How was it used by native people?

Notice the reddish-brown trunk of the redwood which grows in California's coastal forest. It is the world's tallest tree, reaching 200-325 feet tall. The needles spread in rows along a stem. They are 10-19mm long, flat, and grooved on top. The cones are 2-3 cm long, ellipitical, and reddish brown. Redwood was used by the Native Americans for many purposes. Large pieces of bark were used as leaning shelters. Logs were hollowed out to make boats or food storage sheds. Roots were woven into baskets.

