

Wilding Pine (Douglas Fir)

Pseudotsuga menziesii

The Douglas fir is the most common invasive pine species found in Arthur's Pass National Park and northern Craigieburn Forest Park. It is an evergreen conifer species in the pine family, Pinaceae. It is the tallest tree in the Pinaceae family. It is native to western North America and is also known as Douglas-fir, Douglas spruce, Oregon pine, and Columbian pine.

Identification

Cones (Best Feature): Pendulous (hanging down) and 5–10 cm long. Each scale has a prominent, 3-pointed bract (resembling "three pointed tongues" or mouse feet/tail).



Needles: Soft to the touch, single-needled (not in clusters), flat, and 15–38 mm long. They have two white/pale green stomatal bands on the underside.

Buds: Distinctive, 1 cm long, shiny, purplish-brown, and sharply pointed.

Bark: Young bark is smooth with resin blisters. Mature bark is very thick, corky, and reddish-brown to grey with deep, irregular fissures.

Branches: Often drooping or pendulous.

Growth Habit: Young trees are conical; older trees become flat-topped with age.

Control

Remove seedlings: Handpull small seedlings (all year round). Leave on site to rot down.

Cut down (all year round): cut low enough to remove all green needles. Leave on site to rot down.

Stump swab (all year round): cut down close to ground and paint stump with metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (1g/L) or picloram gel. Don't need to remove all green needles if using this method.

Bore & fill (all year round): drill 1 hole every 150 mm around the trunk, and fill with 1g metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg per hole, or glyphosate 540 (diluted with 1/3 water).

Cut and squirt (all year round): make one cut every 150 mm around the trunk, and fill with 1g metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg per cut.

Frilling (all year round): with a sharp chisel or axe, make a deep cut into the sapwood at regular intervals around the base of the tree, taking care not to ring-bark the plant. Immediately apply metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (1g/L) to each cut using a paintbrush or squeeze bottle.

Spray (spring-summer): glyphosate (100ml/10L) or metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (5g/10L)

