

Balsam Fir

Abies balsamea



• List feature here

- **Plant Characteristics:** narrowly pyramidal with dense crown terminating in a slender spire.
- **Habitat:** Native to Alberta to Newfoundland, south to northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Also the mountains of Virginia and West Virginia.
- **Size:** Height: 40-90 ft.
Width: 12-35 ft
- **Foliage:** Short, flat, resinous needles, 1/2—1" long, lustrous dark green with white stomatic bands below.
- **Flower:** Male are catkin-like, yellow, developing from the underside of the leaf axil.
- **Fruit:** Cone, dark violet when young, 2 to 4" long, turning gray-brown and resinous at maturity.
- **Bark:** Dull green, later with grayish areas, smooth except for numerous raised resin blisters turning into reddish brown, irregular scaly plates, 1/2" thick.
- **Soil:** Mostly acid, though tolerating a wide range of soil textures from heavy clay to rocky soils. Most common on cool, medium to wet.
- **pH Range:** 5.1—6.5 pH
- **Tolerances:** Shade tolerant and temperature extremes.
- **USDA Hardiness Zone:** zone 3 and higher elevations of Southeast.
- **Light Range:** Full sun to part shade.
- **Other:**
 - Good for screenings, mass plantings, and windbreaks, if sufficient moisture is available.
 - Grouse and songbirds seek shelter during winter.
 - Under hot, dry conditions may lose the older needles and become open and unkempt.
 - subject to windthrow