



## **Western Redcedar**

*Thuja picata*

### **Characteristics**

Large tree up to 200 feet tall with a drooping leader. Bark gray to reddish brown, stringy, tears off in long strips in mature trees. Trunk spreads widely at base and reaches up to 10 feet in diameter. Foliage forms flat sprays with scale-like leaves in opposite pairs in 4 rows in overlapping shingled arrangement. Leaves strongly aromatic, with scent reminiscent of pineapple when crushed.

### **Flowers/Fruit**

Slender egg-shaped cones about 3/4 inch long in loose clusters develop in spring, ripening to brown in fall.

### **Habitat Value**

Lower limbs provide cover for Spotted Towhees and Dark-eyed Juncos. Rufous Hummingbirds visit the new growth buds in spring. Pine Siskins and Black-capped Chickadees eat seeds. Flickers and Woodpeckers nest in cavities. Douglas Squirrels and Porcupines use bark for nesting. Mule Deer browse on foliage all year.

### **Home Garden Application**

Demands large area for growth to maturity. Young trees can be planted as a hedge or windbreak. Leaves on 3-4 year old branches turn brown and fall. Thrives in moist habitats.