

Coniferous Forest Encyclopedia Article

Coniferous Forest

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Coniferous forests contain trees with cones and generally evergreen needle or scale-shaped leaves. Important genera in the northern hemisphere include pines (*Pinus*), spruces (*Picea*), firs (*Abies*), **redwoods** (*Sequoia*), Douglas firs (*Pseudotsuga*), and larches (*Larix*). Different genera dominate the conifer forests of the southern hemisphere. Conifer forests occupy regions with cool-moist to very cold winters and cool to hot summers. Many conifer forests originated as plantations of **species** from other continents. Among conifer formations in North America are the slow-growing circumpolar **taiga** (boreal), the subalpine-montane, the southern pine, and the Pacific Coast temperate **rain forest**. Softwoods, another name for conifers, are used for lumber, panels, and paper.