

SFA

Seeds for Africa

Noble Fir

No true fir tree species, of which seven are native to North America, is larger than the Noble Fir (*Abies procera*), according to the National Forest Service. Growing in Oregon and Washington State in mountainous terrain, the Noble Fir shares many of the characteristics that define the true firs hailing from the pine family and the genus *Abies*. Used as a specimen tree where room affords, the Noble Fir grows best when planted in damp, acidic soil in full sun.

SIZE AND FORM:

The young Noble Fir has a conical appearance, but as the tree grows and ages, the species takes on a much more rounded look. Noble Firs can attain great heights, with some of the tallest individuals able to grow to 250 feet, notes the University of Connecticut Plant Database. The Noble Fir will average between 140 to 200 feet tall when fully grown and have trunks with diameters between 3 and 5 feet, according to the Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation.

FOLIAGE:

The needles on the upper branches of the Noble Fir are four-angled and plump. The needles on the lower limbs are much flatter. The bluish-green needles measure from 1 inch to 1 1/2 inches long, with each one featuring a minute notch at its tip. Noble Fir needles have a pair of pale lines on their undersides running their length. Being evergreen, the noble fir has no fall color change. The Noble Fir's needles will grow directly out of the branches, a trait all true fir trees have, notes "Trees of North America."

CONES:

The cones produced by the Noble Fir are in the range of 6 inches long, growing upright on the twigs, another fir tree characteristic. Spruces have hanging

cones, as do hemlocks, but the firs, including Noble Fir, have cones that look as if someone glued them standing up along the branches. The Noble Fir's cylindrical cones are a purple-brown color and they possess a curving bract on each separate scale, giving the cone an exterior that appears as if it has tiny shingles covering it.

BARK:

At first, the bark of a Noble Fir will be greenish-gray and somewhat smooth. However, as the Noble Fir develops and ages, the bark changes to a purple-gray mixed with red-brown combination. The bark becomes scaly, with thin ridges that break up into rectangular segments covering the trunk. In many places, resin blisters pockmark the bark.

These seeds are specifically imported into South Africa for Bonsai growing. They will not grow well outdoors, and chances of success outdoors is limited.

Plant at 3 – 5mm in a pot indoors. You must give this time to germinate as it can take up to 3 to 6 months to germinate.

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