

WACD PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

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Alaska Yellow Cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*)

Distribution

Alaskan Yellow Cedar grows natively in the Olympic Mountains and the west slope of the Cascades at mid to higher elevations (2,000 to 7,000 feet). Its range extends north through western British Columbia into Alaska.

Growth Habit

Alaskan Yellow Cedar has a very unique and graceful growth habit. It can reach 80 feet tall (rarely), with a very slender, drooping leader. Its branches also droop downwards, appearing limp.

Adaptability

Alaskan Yellow Cedar has a relatively limited native distribution or range. It is important to note however, that it is a fairly adaptable species which will thrive throughout this region. The most preferred site for it would be one that is moist to wet, with moderately good exposure to the sun. It is often found growing on rockier, drier sites as well.

Comments

- Alaskan Yellow Cedar was once more prevalent in its native range.
- The values of its timber lead to extensive harvests followed by little or no replanting.
- Its wood is strong and very resistant to decay. These qualities are particularly desirable in boat-building, bridge and dock decking and marine pilings. It is a timber species that is highly regarded in Japan, where most export-quality logs are destined.
- It is also a prized ornamental species with attractive foliage and particularly graceful growth habit.

