

NATIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATED WITH SUDDEN OAK DEATH (SOD) AND THEIR USE BY CALIFORNIA INDIANS – FACT SHEET No. 34

The plant disease caused by a fungus-like microorganism, Phytophthora ramorum, is referred to as “Sudden Oak Death” because of its association with premature death in tanoak trees. This disease occurs in Northern California wildlands and affects several native California plants, including White Fir. Susceptible plants can become infected through exposure to water borne infective agents via rainfall, splash or drainage. In addition to natural spread of the disease, it can also be transmitted by human transport of infected plants and their parts to susceptible new plants in the environment. Good cultural practices and restrictions on the movement of infected material can minimize the risk of spreading the disease. For more information, please refer to website links for the U.S. Department Of Agriculture/Plant Protection And Quarantine (www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/pramorom/), the California Department Of Food And Agriculture (www.cdfa.ca.gov), the California Oak Mortality Task Force (<http://nature.berkeley.edu/comtf>), or contact your local County Department Of Agriculture.

Common Name: White Fir
 Scientific Name: Abies concolor



Photo courtesy of Virginia Tech Dept. of Forestry

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|---|
| Karuk Name: | mahitháiriip | (lowland fir, grand fir, “white fir”) |
| | mítah | (dry fir limbs or twigs), mitahásxaay (green fir limbs) |
| | ichániipich | (fir tree 15-20 feet high), ichaníp'uusich (fir cone) |
| Yurok Name: | stowstek' | (small fir tree) |
| | trprnr' | (large fir tree) |
| | wrhkwich | (fir bark) |

Past and possibly present tribal uses.

Karuk: Dry and green limbs and twigs used for fires in sweathouses.

Mewuk: Branches were used to line acorn caches.

Paiute: A poultice of fresh pitch was used to treat cuts. A decoction of needles and bark resin was taken for pulmonary troubles. Soft bark resin was eaten or an infusion of bark was taken for tuberculosis. A compound decoction of resin was taken for venereal disease.

Shoshone: A decoction of needles and bark resin was taken for pulmonary troubles. A simple or compound poultice of warm pitch was used to treat sores or boils.

Washoe: Soft bark resin eaten or an infusion of bark was taken for tuberculosis.