

portant groves with Amabilis fir and Menzies spruce over the humid area of the Pacific slope.

The Western hemlock is an important forest tree both for lumber and tanbark. Its commercial value has only of late years been appreciated. Owing to a prejudice, founded upon the inferior quality of its eastern namesake, it has been greatly underrated.

Vertical grained flooring of hemlock is even superior to the Douglas fir. The tanbark is also superior to the eastern article.

Hemlock is a slow grower, but reaches occasionally as large as eight feet in diameter; usually from three to four feet in diameter, with height of about 150 feet. Trees two feet in diameter are about 200 years old, and the largest trees are seven or eight hundred years old.

It is not very particular as regards the quality of soil, thriving on poor soils so long as there is sufficient humidity. It grows best where there is abundant rainfall upon a fairly well-drained moist soil; moisture being one of its most essential requirements. Where it grows on exposed ground, the butt log will often sink in salt water, and will be very tough and gnarly.

Hemlock grows generally as a subordinate tree all over Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands, and on the mainland coast to Alaska.

Along the east coast of Vancouver Island hemlock is a common tree in the Douglas fir forest; and on account of its smaller size, is commonly used for making skid roads and landings by the loggers; formerly all hemlock was left in the woods to be later destroyed by fire; but the larger trees are now being taken out by the logger.

On the west coast of Vancouver Island hemlock occurs in abundance associated with Red cedar, Amabilis fir, and Menzies spruce.

Hemlock occurs sparingly over scattered areas on the mountain slopes and more humid parts of the southern interior of British Columbia.