California Forests: Diverse and Plentiful

California’s forests contain a wide variety of evergreen and deciduous trees.

The map below depicts the distribution of some of California’s more significant conifers.

**Redwood**
*Sequoia sempervirens*
Featuring reddish-brown bark, short flat needles, and inch-long cones, the Redwood is found in coastal Northern California. This unique conifer species reproduces most readily by sprouting from the trunk.

**White Fir**
*Abies concolor*
This "true fir" species occurs at higher elevations, and is identified by its blue-green needles, oblong olive-green or purple cones, and branches that extend down the trunk nearly to the ground.

**Sugar Pine**
*Pinus lambertiana*
So named because of the white, sugary-like crust that forms around scars in its bark, the Sugar Pine grows to 200 feet, making it the tallest American pine.

**Douglas Fir**
*Pseudotsuga menziesii*
With its small, balsam-colored cones, short blunt needles, and long branch-free lower trunk, the Douglas Fir is easily recognized. It grows in both coastal and inland regions of California.

**Ponderosa Pine**
*Pinus ponderosa*
Common throughout the West, this species grows to 180 feet, and features long, dark yellow-green needles.

**Incense Cedar**
*Libocedrus decurrens*
Found throughout California’s mixed-conifer forests, Incense Cedar can be identified by its flattened branches covered with very short, overlapping scales.

**Forest Types**
- Douglas Fir
- Redwood
- Ponderosa Pine
- California Mixed Conifer
  - Douglas Fir
  - White Fir
  - Incense Cedar
  - Sugar Pine
  - Ponderosa Pine