



**Balsam Fir** - Very shade tolerant, but needs ample moisture.

**Leaf:** Flattened needles, 3/4 inch long, blunt or notched at end, may be shorter and sharper pointed on upper branches, shiny dark green above and silvery-blue below.

**Flower:** Species is monoecious; males occur on undersides of leaf axils, purple to yellow-brown; females occur in upper crown, are purple and inconspicuous.

**Fruit:** Resinous cones are upright, 2 to 3 1/2 inches long, oblong to cylindrical, green with purple tinge, with bracts shorter than the scales; scales are deciduous with seed dispersal in late summer.

**Twig:** Yellow-green, later turning gray; buds are reddish brown and resin covered; leaf scars are flat and rounded.

**Bark:** Shiny silvery gray-brown, smooth except for numerous, raised resin blisters; largest stems may become a bit scaly.

**Form:** Balsam fir is a small to medium sized tree reaching 80 feet tall with a very narrow, spire-like crown.