

# Tsuga heterophylla

## COMMON NAMES

western hemlock

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Gymnosperms

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Large evergreen tree; pendulous branch tips; leaves spiraled on shoots but come to lie in flattened layers either side of the shoots.

## FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

## DISTRIBUTION

Self-establishing at Castle Hill, Canterbury, in *Fuscospora cliffortioides* forest from trees planted in gaps created by snow damage.

## HABITAT

Montane forest

## GENUS

Tsuga

## FAMILY

Pinaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Tsuga heterophylla* (Raf.) Sarg.

## YEAR NATURALISED

2010

## ORIGIN

Pacific northwest of USA and Canada

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Timber, shelter, ornamental

## ETYMOLOGY

**heterophylla**: Varied leaves; from the Greek heteros and phullon

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/tsuga-heterophylla/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026



In *Fuscospora cliffortioides* (mountain beech) forest, Castle Hill. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 09/05/2010, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Seedling in *Fuscospora cliffortioides* (mountain beech) forest, Castle Hill, Canterbury. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 09/05/2010, Licence: CC BY-NC.