



**Commercial names:**  
engl.: Mexican fir  
esp.: Abeto mexicano  
fr.:

**Common names:** Abeto, Guatemalan fir, Guayami, Hallarin, Oyamel, Pinabere, Pinabete, Plumajatzin, Plumajillo de montaña

**Subject to CITES regulations:** All parts and derivatives.

**Macroscopic characteristics of the wood:** Wood: greyish-brown, without vessels, odourless. To the naked eye, there is no clear distinction between growth rings. Growth rings are heterogeneous in width, the spring wood broader than the summer wood. Sapwood and heartwood distinct. The sapwood varies from yellowish white to pink and can also be light brown in colour. The heartwood is dark greyish brown and without resin. Fibres straight.  
Hardness: easily marked with the thumbnail  
Grain: fine to medium  
Specific weight: 0.35 g/cm<sup>3</sup> (very light wood)

**Microscopic characteristics of the wood:** Wood non-porous. Resin canals absent. Growth rings sometimes poorly distinguishable. Tracheids square or polygonal in transversal section distributed in radial lines, have bordered pits in a single row, occasionally in more than one row, arranged on opposite sides of the radial walls, more than 10 µm in diameter. Crassulae (Sanio's bands) in the form of thickenings at the bottom of the pit chamber, frequently present. The pit borders on the tangential walls smaller than on the radial walls. Tracheids more than 3200 µm long. Axial parenchyma (precumbert) with nodular end walls. Cells of the vascular rays horizontal with many pits, a rough surface and nodular terminal walls. Rays uniseriate, variable in form, usually more than 20, on average (2 –) 24 cells high, sometimes with crystals. Cross-field pits taxodioid and piceoid. Radial tracheids absent. Traumatic canals occasionally present.

**Distribution:**

El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico

**Use:**

Used locally. Use of this species for lumber and firewood goes back to the Mayan period. It was employed intensively by the Spanish for construction and is now used locally for hand looms. Branches are used to build temporary shelters in the mountains and for decoration of churches and houses. Young trees are used as Christmas trees.

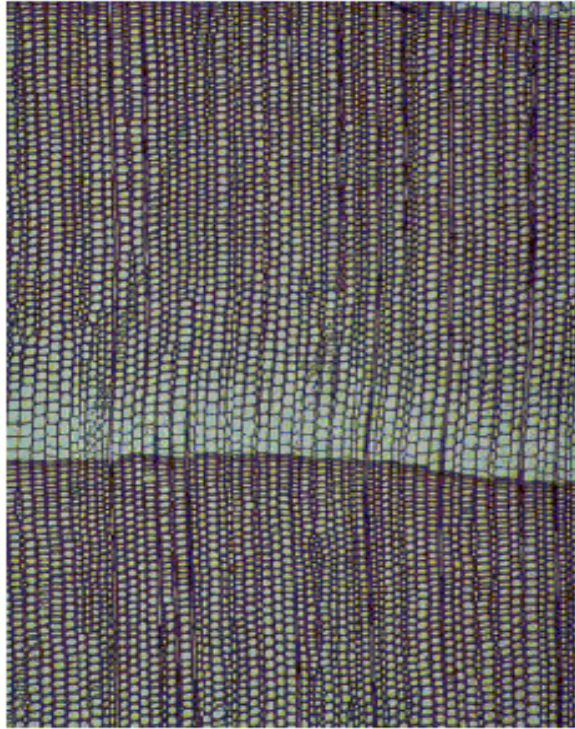
The CITES report trade database contains records of the export of seeds from Guatemala to the United States of America.

**Similar species:**

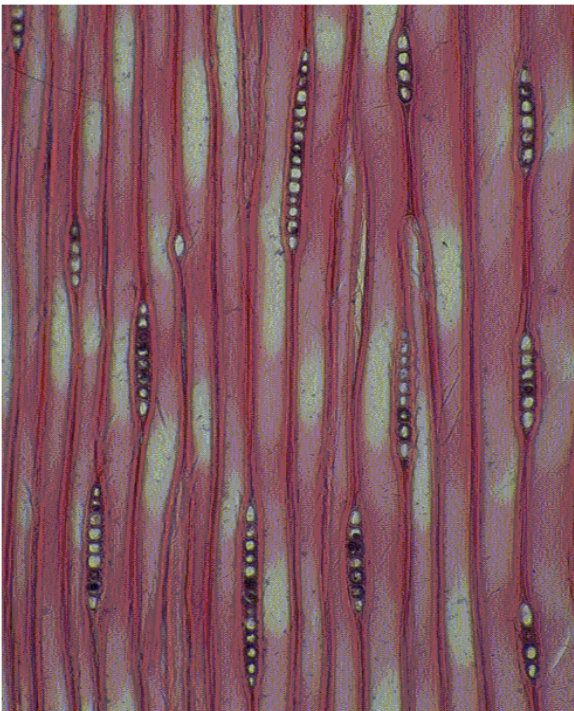
This genus has some 39 species in the temperate regions of North America, Central America and Europe. The wood resembles *A. durangensis* Martínez; *A. mexicana* Martínez; *A. oaxacana* Martínez; *A. religiosa* (H.B.K.) Schlecht. and Cham.; *A. vejari* Martínez. It has the general appearance of the pines and spruces.

# Abies guatemalensis

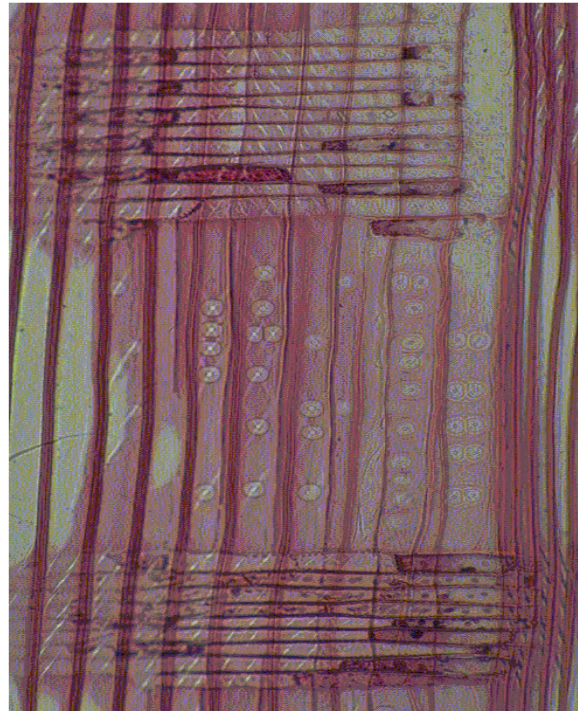




transverse section



tangential section



radial section