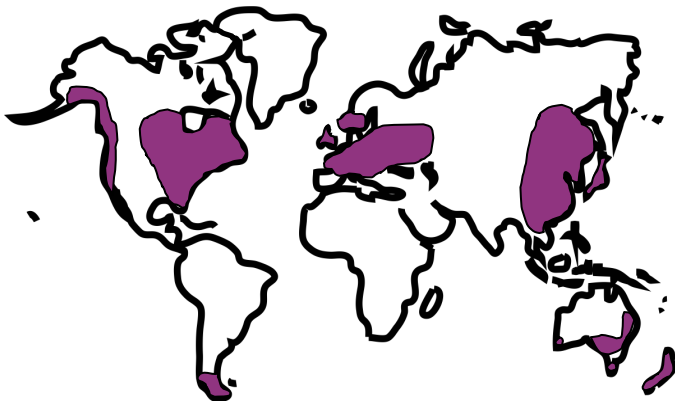


Definition:

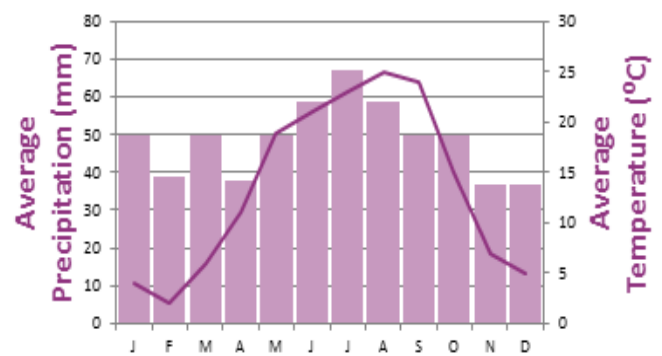
Forests that are dominated by trees that lose their leaves in winter months.

Location

- Temperate Deciduous Forests are found from 40-60° North and South of the Equator, but are more dominant in the Northern hemisphere.
- They are found in Western Europe, the UK, East Asia, Eastern and Western USA and Australia and New Zealand.

**Climate**

- Precipitation is moderate all year, with an annual rainfall of 500-1500mm.
- Summers are mild and winters are cooler, but average temperatures usually remain above 10°C.
- Warm, moist conditions lead to the formation of a very fertile soil, known as brown earth soil.



(Flickr Source : Alam Tunnicliffe)



A Tawny Owl

Examples of Flora

- Deciduous trees such as Oak and Beech form the tree layer.
- Deciduous bushes such as Hazel form the shrub layer.
- Ferns and grasses form the ground layer.

Examples of Fauna

- Numerous small mammals such as squirrels, racoons and skunks.
- A wide variety of birds, as well as birds of prey such as the Tawny Owl.

Conservation

These forests are of great importance, as they provide a habitat for many species. They also store large amounts of carbon which is helping to reduce the negative effects of global warming. Threats to these forests include deforestation as a result of development, climate change and unsustainable forestry practices.

Conservation strategies include:

- Planting trees to replace any that are cut-down.
- Protecting areas of forest by creating protected areas.
- Pollarding (cutting down trees to shoulder height). This encourages new growth and maintains the trees for future generations while also meeting the demand for timber.



(Flickr Source : Nicholas Tomelli)

A temperate Deciduous Woodland.