

## A Taxol (Paclitaxel) Chronology

- < 1962      Loggers burned Pacific yew as waste.
- 1962-7      Bark collected. Extracts found to kill leukemia cells.
- 1967        Taxol isolated as active compound.
- 1967-77     Supply problems, poor results limit study.
- 1978        Unique mechanism of action discovered.
- early '80's   Compound that can easily be converted to taxol discovered in European yew leaves and needles.
- 1984        Human trials, outstanding results.
- 1984-9      Toxicity, limited supply slow progress.
- 1989        Large-scale harvesting begins. Five year supply of trees remains.
- 1993        Harvest halted. Lab synthesis begun.
- 2000        Paclitaxel found in hazelnut leaves, twigs, and nuts and fungi endemic to hazelnuts.