PLANT FACT SHEET

Juniperus polycarpos K. Koch

GENUS *Juniperus* **FAMILY** Cupressaceae

COMMON NAMES Indian Juniper, Himalayan Pencil cedar

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit-oil, Spice

The oil from the fruit is used to flavour gin after the turpentine like odour is removed.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 12-15 m tall. It can be 2 m around the trunk. The crown is a pyramid shape. The wood has a sweet smell. The lower leaves are awl shaped and the upper leaves are scale like and egg shaped. The male flower catkins are on a scaly stalk. The fruit are a flattened round shape. They are 8.5 mm across. They are bluish-black when ripe. They have 2-5 seeds.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows in the Himalayas between 1,500-4,300 m altitude. It grows in semi-arid places.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees can live for 1,000 years.

NOTES

There are 50 to 60 Juniperus species. The wood in burnt as incense.

REFERENCES

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Sahni, K.C., 2000, The Book of Indian Trees. Bombay Natural History Society. Oxford. p 204

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