PLANT FACT SHEET

Platycladus orientalis (L.) Franco

GENUS *Platycladus* **FAMILY** Cupressaceae

COMMON NAMES Oriental cedar

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Leaves - tea

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 9-15 m high and spreads 3-4.5 m wide. It has an irregular rounded crown. The bark is fibrous. The leaves are pale green and do not have a scent. Leaves turn bronze in the winter. They grow in vertical flattened sprays. Scale like leaves are 1-2 mm long with resin glands and sword shaped leaves are 4-5 mm long. The twigs are flattened and leaf covered. The cones are egg shaped and covered with a bloom. They are 7-12 mm long and upright. There are 4-5 pairs of thick fleshy scales. They ripen to brown. The seeds do not have wings.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is frost hardy. It grows in swampy areas on limestone rocks. It cannot stand stagnant water around its roots. It can also grow on dry shallow soils. It can tolerate salt spray. In Hobart Botanical gardens. National Arboretum Canberra. It suits plant hardiness zone 7.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or stem cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is slow growing.

NOTES

There is only one species of Platycladus. This one has been included in Thuja in the past.

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