PLANT FACT SHEET

Pinus gerardiana Wall. ex D. Don

GENUS *Pinus* **FAMILY** Pinaceae

COMMON NAMES Nepal nut pine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Nut

The seeds are valued as a dessert. They can be eaten raw or roasted. The outer shell is removed. They are also ground and mixed with flour.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 15-25 m high. The bark is white and has irregular cracks. It forms into thin plates. The first year branches are pale yellow-green. There are 3 needles per bundle. They are triangle shaped in cross section. They are 6-10 cm long and stiff. The seed cones have short stalks. They are oval and 12-20 cm long by 9-11 cm wide. They are almost brown at maturity. The seed scales are 4-5 cm long. The seeds are long and round and about 2.5 cm across.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. In China it grows in the mountains at about 2700 m altitude in Xizang. In the Indian Himalayas it grows between 3,200-3,800 m above sea level. It grows on stony ground. It grows in dry low rainfall areas. Hobart Botanical Gardens. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The cones are plucked before they open and then heated to make the scales expand and get the seeds out. The seeds are stored for later use. A cone produces 50-100 seeds. A tree bears about 25 cones.

NOTES

There are over 100 species of Pinus.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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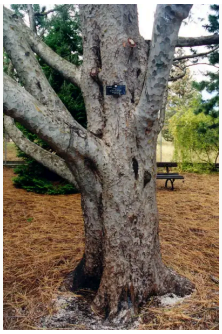
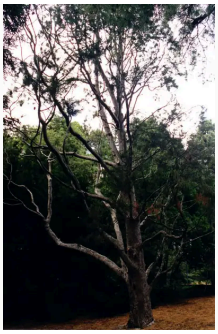


Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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