PLANT FACT SHEET

Juniperus oxycedrus Linn.

GENUS *Juniperus* **FAMILY** Cupressaceae

COMMON NAMES Prickly Juniper

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Fruit - tea, Shoots, Seeds

The fruit are used to flavour gin. They can be eaten fresh or boiled to prepare juice.
The fruit are also used for a herbal tea. They are also used as a seasoning in meat stews.
The shoots are boiled to make tea or cooked and used as a spice.
The seeds are used as a coffee substitute.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It is broadly cone shaped. It grows 10 m high. The bark is purple brown and peels off in strips. The leaves are needle like and slender. They are 2.5 cm long. They spread out in rings of three. They are sharp pointed. They are green above and have 2 bands underneath. The male and female flowers occur on separate plants. Male flowers are yellow and female flowers are green. They occur in small clusters in the axils of leaves. The fruit are berry-like cones. They become red to purple as they ripen. The cones are 1.2 cm across.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows naturally in dry woods and on hills in Southern Europe. It suits hardiness zones 5-10.

NOTES

There are 50 to 60 Juniperus species.

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