PLANT FACT SHEET

Picea smithiana (Wall.) Boiss.

GENUS *Picea* **FAMILY** Pinaceae

COMMON NAMES Morinda spruce, West Himalayan spruce

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Gum, bark, Seeds, pod, Tea

The resin or gum is chewed as a bubble gum.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree. It can be 60 m tall. The trunk is 2 m across. The bark is pale brown and breaks into irregular plates. The plant has a weeping habit with the branches hanging downwards. The leaves are spreading. The leaves are 3.3-5.5 cm long by 1.3-1.8 mm wide and dark green. The cones are green and 10-18 cm long by 4.5-5 cm wide. They are pointed at both ends. As they mature they turn purple. The seeds are dark brown and about 5 mm wide.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is frost hardy, once established. They grow in alpine soils between 2300-3600 m altitude in China. It suits hardiness zones 6-8. Arboretum Tasmania. Kyneton Botanical Gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown by seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is slow growing.

NOTES

There are between 30 and 40 species of Picea.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/9260fc08-b44b-42cc-b53b-915083ab9e5b