PLANT FACT SHEET

Pinus roxburghii Sarg.

GENUS *Pinus* **FAMILY** Pinaceae

COMMON NAMES Chir Pine, Long-leaved Indian Pine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Manna

The seeds are roasted and eaten. They are also eaten raw.
A sweet manna exudes from the bark and twigs and is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen pine. It is a tree. It can be 55 m tall. The trunk is over 1 m across. The bark is dark red-brown and thick. It is deeply cracked along its length and scaly. The leaves occur in bundles of 3. They are 10-20 cm long by 1.5 mm wide. They are like threads. They are pointed. There is a persistent sheath on 2-3 cm of the base. The male cones are cylindrical and yellow. The female cones are brown. They are 10-20 cm long by 6-9 cm wide. The seed scales are oblong, thick and stiff. The seeds are nearly 1 cm long. They have wings about 2.5 cm wide.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows in Nepal between 800-1400 m altitude. It grows on dry slopes. In China it grows in the mountains between 2100-2200 m altitude in Xixang. In Uttar Pradesh in India it grows between 600-2800 m altitude. Hobart Botanical gardens, Melbourne Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 6-11. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing. The cones open after 25 months from fertilization.

NOTES

There are over 100 species of Pinus.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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