PLANT FACT SHEET

Pinus banksiana Lambert

GENUS *Pinus* **FAMILY** Pinaceae

COMMON NAMES Jack pine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Seeds, Bark

The inner bark is sweet and succulent when the sap is running in spring. It is eaten fresh or dried.
The seeds are eaten
A tea if made from the needles. It needs sweetening with sugar, honey or maple syrup.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows to 25 m tall. The trunk is 0.6 m across. The trunk tapers and the crown is cone shaped. The bark is orange or red-brown. It is scaly. The crown can be flat topped or irregularly rounded. The small branches are orange red. There are 2 needles per bundle. They are yellow green and twisted. They are 2-5 cm long by 1-1.5 mm wide. The edges are finely toothed. The seed cones curve upwards. They are pale brown or greenish yellow. They are oval when open. They are unequal in shape. They are 3-5.5 cm long. They then shed seeds but sometimes only with age or fire. The seeds are brown or nearly black and compressed. They are 4-5 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is cultivated in China. In Canada it grows in exposed places on poor soils in the Rocky Mountains. It suits hardiness zones 2-8. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The cones open after fire.

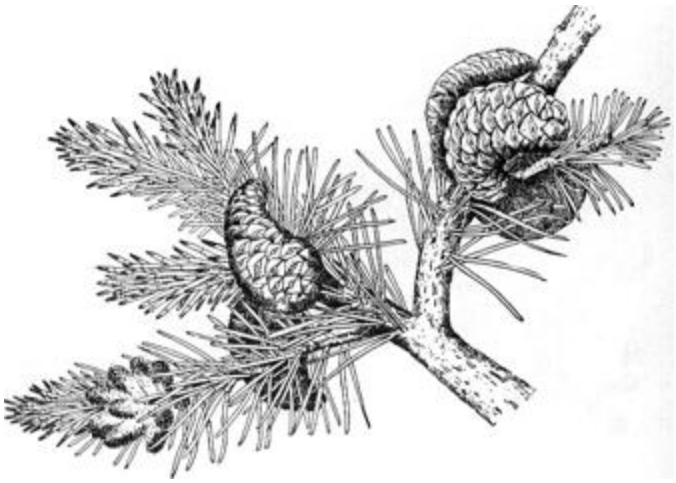
Harvesting and Seed Production

Seed crops begin at 5-10 years of age and occur almost every year afterwards. Cones mature in 2 years. Trees can live for 150 years.

NOTES

There are over 100 species of Pinus.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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