PLANT FACT SHEET

Picea purpurea Mast.

GENUS *Picea* **FAMILY** Pinaceae

COMMON NAMES Purple-coned spruce, Zi guo yun shan

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, bark, Seeds, Tea

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 50 m tall. The branches are 1 m across. The bark is dark grey and scaly. The crown is like a pyramid. The small branches are yellow then turn grey. They are densely hairy. The leaves spread out and on the upper side of the branches press forward. They are flattened. They are 7-12 mm long by 1.5-1.7 mm wide. They are keeled on both surfaces. The seed cones are purplish black and long and oval. They are 2.5-4 cm long by 1.7-3 cm wide. The seeds are 9 mm across. They are brown with a purple spotted wing.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. In China they grow in mountains on N facing slopes between 2600-3800 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 7-10.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

The cones mature in 6 months.

NOTES

There are between 30 and 40 species of Picea.

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