PLANT FACT SHEET

Juniperus occidentalis Hook.

GENUS *Juniperus* **FAMILY** Cupressaceae

COMMON NAMES Sierra Juniper, California juniper, Western Juniper

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are boiled and eaten. They are also dried and pounded into flour.
The ripe nuts are used as food.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows 20 m tall and is a broad cone shape. The bark is brown with furrows and flakes off. The leaves are small and scale like. They occur in threes. They have very small teeth along the edge. They are grey-green and have a small gland underneath. The male and female flowers are usually on separate plants. Males are yellow and female flowers are green. The fruit is berry like and round or oval. It is blue black with a bloom over it. It is 1 cm long and ripens over 2 years.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows naturally on rocky slopes and dry soil in mountain regions in the United States. It suits hardiness zones 5-9.

NOTES

There are 50 to 60 Juniperus species.

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