PLANT FACT SHEET

Cephalotaxus harringtonii (Knight. ex J. Forbes.) K. Koch.

GENUS *Cephalotaxus* **FAMILY** Taxaceae

COMMON NAMES Japanese Plum Yew, Cowtail Pine, Plum-fruited yew

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The fleshy fruit is sweet and is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A low spreading evergreen tree. It grows 6-12 m tall. The bark is brown and flaking. The dense branches form a rounded bush like tree. The leaves are needles spread out on each side of the twigs. They curve upwards to forma V shaped trough. They have a prominent central rib. The leaves are narrow and 5 cm long by 3 mm wide. They are dark green above and pointed. They have 2 bands underneath. The male and female flowers are on separate plants. The male flowers are in the axils of leaves and the female flowers are on the tips of shoots. Male flowers are slightly larger than female flowers. The flowers are creamy white. The fruit are 2.5 cm long and oval. They are blue-green and ripen to purple-brown.

HABITAT

It grows on most soils except chalk soils. It can grow in shade. In China it grows to 900 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 6-10. Geelong Botanical Gardens. Hobart Botanical Gardens. Melbourne Botanical Gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seeds can take 2 years to germinate. It can be grown by cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 10 Cephalotaxus species.
Also put in the family Cephalotaxaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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