



Thuja occidentalis L.

Family: Cupressaceae

Common names: White cedar, Morpankhi



Description:

Thuja occidentalis is a small tree, growing to a height of 10–20 m with trunk diameter of 0.4 m. It has fan-like branches and scaly leaves. The tree is often stunted or prostrate. The bark is red-brown, furrowed and peels in narrow, longitudinal strips. The foliage forms in flat sprays with scale-like leaves. The cones are slender, yellow-green turns brown on ripening, 10–15 mm long and 4–5 mm broad, with 6-8 overlapping scales. The branches may take root if the tree falls.

Utilization:

It is widely used as an ornamental tree. Its commercial use is in fencing and posts, poles, and in the construction of log cabins. The essential oil within the plant has been used for cleansers, disinfectants, insecticides, room sprays, and soft soaps. The twigs are used to make teas to relieve constipation and headache (USDA, 2008).

Part	Uses
Stem	crafts, construction, and medicine
Leaf	cleansers, disinfectants

References:

"USDA/NRCS Plant Guide; (2008) Northern White Cedar, *Thuja occidentalis* L", United States Department of Agriculture.