

### *Thuja sp.* L.

**Family:** Cupressaceae

**Common names:** White cedar, Morpankhi

**Part used:** Whole plant



**Fig.** *Thuja sp.*

#### **Description:**

*Thuja* is an evergreen conifer occurs in south eastern Canada and the adjacent northern United States. It is also called tree of life. It is only a small tree, growing to a height of 10–20 m tall with a 0.4 m trunk diameter. It has fan-like branches and scaly leaves. The tree is often stunted or prostrate. The bark is red-brown, wrinkly and peels in thin, longitudinal strips. The foliage is in flat sprays with scale-like leaves. The cones are slender and yellow-green in colour and turn brown upon ripening. It is 10–15 mm long and 4–5 mm broad, with 6-8 overlapping scales.

#### **Utilization:**

It is widely used as an ornamental tree. It is considered as a gift to humanity for its countless uses; some of them are crafts, construction, and medicine. It is commercially used for fencing, posts, poles, and in the construction of log cabins. The essential oil extracted from the plant has been used in cleansers, disinfectants, hair preparations, insecticides, room sprays and in soaps.