

		<b>TAXUS</b>
<b>BOTANICAL NAME</b>	<b>:-</b>	<b>Taxus baccata</b>
<b>FAMILY</b>	<b>:-</b>	<b>Taxaceae</b>
<b>LOCAL NAME</b>	<b>:-</b>	<b>Kseh Blei</b>
<b>HINDI NAME</b>	<b>:-</b>	<b>Taxus</b>



### **HABITS AND HABITATS :-**

TAXUS baccata L., Himalayan yew, locally known as 'Thuner' in various parts of the Western Himalaya, has greater economic and medicinal values than the other gymnosperms in the region. In India it is widely distributed in the temperate zone of Himalaya between 1800 and 3300 m above mean sea level. Taxus baccata is a conifer native to western, central and southern Europe, northwest Africa, northern Iran and southwest

### **PLANTS DESCRIPTION :-**

It is a small to medium-sized evergreen tree, growing 10-20 m (exceptionally up to 28 m) tall, with a trunk up to 2 m (exceptionally 4 m) diameter. The bark is thin, scaly brown, coming off in small flakes aligned with the stem. The leaves are lanceolate, flat, dark green, 1-4 cm long and 2-3 mm broad, arranged spirally on the stem, but with the leaf bases twisted to align the leaves in two flat rows either side of the stem, except on erect leading shoots where the spiral arrangement is more obvious. The leaves are highly poisonous. The seed cones are highly modified; each cone containing a single seed 4-7 mm long partly surrounded by a modified scale which develops into a soft, bright red berry-like structure called an aril, 8-15 mm long and wide and open at the end.

### **PARTS USED :-**

The Bark ,Leaves

### **MEDICINAL PROPERTIES AND USES :-**

The important anti-Cancer drug, called TAXOL is first extracted from the plant leaves. The paste prepared from its bark is applied as a plaster on fractured bone. Extract from the bark and leaves is also used for the treatment of various diseases like bronchitis, asthma, poisonous insect bites and also as an aphrodisiac. The leaf and bark paste is also used as plastered for fractured bones and headaches.

### **CHEMICAL COMPOSITION:-**

Taxol the first anti-Cancer Drugs.

### **PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY :-**

Seed is very slow to germinate, often taking 2 or more years. It is best sown as soon as it is ripe in the autumn when it should germinate 18 months later. Stored seed may take 2 years or more to germinate. 4 months warm followed by 4 months cold stratification may help reduce the germination time]. Harvesting the seed 'green' (when fully developed but before it has dried on the plant) and then sowing it immediately has not been found to reduce the germination time because the inhibiting factors develop too early. Prick out the seedlings into individual pots once they are large enough to handle and grow them on in pots in a cold frame. Any planting out is best done in late spring or early summer, after the last expected frosts. Cuttings of half-ripe terminal shoots, 5 - 8cm long, July/August in a shaded frame. Should root by late September but leave them in the frame over winter and plant out in late spring. High percentage. Cuttings of ripe terminal shoots, taken in winter after a hard frost, in a shaded frame.