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Cedrela odorata

[Synonyms : *Cedrela adenophylla*, *Cedrela brachystachya*, *Cedrela ciliolata*, *Cedrela cubensis*, *Cedrela dugesii*, *Cedrela glaziovii*, *Cedrela guianensis*, *Cedrela hassleri*, *Cedrela longipes*, *Cedrela longipetiolulata*, *Cedrela mexicana*, *Cedrela mexicana* var. *puberula*, *Cedrela mourae*, *Cedrela occidentalis*, *Cedrela occidentalis* var. *xerogeiton*, *Cedrela palustris*, *Cedrela paraguariensis*, *Cedrela paraguariensis* var. *brachystachya*, *Cedrela paraguariensis* var. *hassleri*, *Cedrela paraguariensis* var. *multijuga*, *Cedrela rotunda*, *Cedrela sintenisii*, *Cedrela velloziana*, *Cedrela whitfordii*, *Cedrela yucatanica*, *Surenus brownii*, *Surenus glaziovii*, *Surenus guianensis*, *Surenus mexicana*, *Surenus velloziana*]

WEST INDIAN CEDAR is an evergreen tree. Native to tropical America (particularly the West Indies) it has small, yellowish-green flowers.

It is also known as Barbados cedar, Bow wood, *Cedoro* (Japanese), *Cèdre acajou* (French), *Cèdre des barbares* (French), *Cedrela* (Ghanaian), *Cedrelo odora* (Esperanto), Cedro, *Cedro colorado* (Spanish), *Cedro real* (Spanish), Central American cedar, Cigarbox cedar, Cigarbox cedrela, Mexican cedar, Jamaica cedar, *Mo xi ge xiang hong chun* (Chinese), Spanish cedar, *Surian* (Indonesian, Malay), Toon tree, Tropical cedar, *Westindische Zeder* (German), *Xiang hong chun* (Chinese), and *Yan yang chun* (Chinese).

The wood's aromatic smell seems to be repellent to many insects.

The fragrant reddish wood has been traded as Spanish cedar and its sawdust can be distilled to extract fragrant oil.

From at least January 2002 West Indian cedar has been included under Appendix III of CITES which itemises species regulated voluntarily by named countries ie. the same native species in another country may not be subject to any formal regulation. Both Colombia and Peru believe that West Indian cedar could be seriously threatened if it is over-harvested there and an export permit and official certificate of origin for this species needs to be sought from the relevant government.

Odorata is derived from Latin *odor* (scent, smell, odour) meaning 'scented or fragrant'.

As North American Indians in the past, today's archers still use bows made from this durable wood.

West Indian cedar wood is used commercially for making fence posts, cigar boxes, mothproof chests and furniture. It has also been used for veneering, and in Ghana has been recommended for building boats and aircraft.

Medicinally, the root bark has been used to treat fever.