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*Libocedrus bidwillii*

**NEW ZEALAND CEDAR** is an evergreen tree. Native to New Zealand it has tiny woody-scaled cones.

It is also known as Bidwill's libocedrus, Cedar, *Kaikawaka* (Maori), Mountain cedar, New Zealand mountain cypress, and *Pahautea* (Maori).

*Bidwillii* commemorates an English botanist, plant collector and explorer, John Carne Bidwill (1815-1853) who explored New Zealand and Tahiti and settled in Australia. For a few months in 1847 he was both Director of the Sydney Botanic Garden and Government botanist but bureaucratic bungling in the Colonial Office is said to have led to the appointment of his successor in January 1848. From 1848 to 1853 he was Commissioner of Crown Lands at Wide Bay (north of Brisbane, Queensland) during which time he also began planting a botanic garden at Tinana which does not exist today. Most of his plants were transferred to Sydney when he died. The majority of the plants he collected in New Zealand were sent to England (especially the Botanic Garden at Kew) and among his correspondence were letters to Sir William Hooker (1785-1865) the first Director there. In 1841 his *Rambles in New Zealand* was published in London and they were reprinted in New Zealand in 1952.

Today the durable red wood is used for house building and shingling, and for making telegraph poles, railway sleepers and bridges.