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Pinus cembroides var. *quadrifolia*

[Synonyms : *Pinus cembroides* var. *juarezensis*, *Pinus cembroides* var. *parryana*, *Pinus juarezensis*, *Pinus llaveana*, *Pinus parryana*, *Pinus quadrifolia*]

PARRY’S PINYON is an evergreen tree. Native to Mexico and to south-western United States (particularly California) it has needle-like leaves and small reddish-brown cones.

It is also known as Four-leaf pine, Four-leaved nut pine, Four-leaved pine, Four-needled pinyon, Four-needle pinyon pine, Nut pine, Parry pine, Parry pinyon, Parry pinyon pine, Piñon (English and Spanish), Pinyon pine, and Sierra Juárez piñon.

The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

Warning – prolonged contact with the fresh wood can cause dermatitis and allergic breathing problems.

Cembroides is made up of both the species name and its Italian common name *cembra* and Greek *-oides* (like) components meaning ‘like Siberian cedar (*Pinus cembra*)’.

Quadrifolia is derived from Latin *quattuor* (four) and *-folia* (leaved) meaning 'four-leaved'.

The small brown nuts were eaten by both the Diegueño and Cahuilla North American Indian tribes. The Cahuilla ate them whole and as a mushy porridge. They also prepared them as baby food or as a drink with water – and they dried them for later use.

The Cahuilla used the reddish-brown bark for roofing, the roots and needles provided materials for basketry, and the soft wood was burnt as fuel and incense. Pitch served as an adhesive for sticking arrowheads to shafts or mending pottery or baskets.

For the Cahuilla tribe the nuts also provided a valuable cash crop.

Parry’s pinyon was a source of cosmetics too. Young Cahuilla girls put the pitch on their faces like a sun cream to prevent burning.

The lightweight, knotty wood has been used for fence posts and fuel.