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Pinus kesiya subsp. *insularis*

[Synonyms : *Pinus insularis*, *Pinus kesiya*, *Pinus khasya*, *Pinus khasyana*]

BENGUET PINE is an evergreen tree. Native from India to the northern Philippines it has needle-like leaves and dark brown cones.

It is also known as *Alal* (Filipino/Tagalog), *Bolbol* (Filipino/Tagalog), Luzon pine, *Saleng* (Filipino/Tagalog), *Tinshu* (Burmese), and *Tinyu* (Burmese).

The pale brown heartwood darkens upon exposure to air.

Kesiya means ‘of or from the Khasi hills in the state of Meghalaya in north-eastern India.

Insularis means ‘of or from islands’.

The tree has been a source of turpentine in the Philippines from at least the 16th Century.

Oil extracted from the needles has been used to make perfumes and it has also been used as an insect repellent.

Today the tree is cultivated in plantations in Kenya and Zambia.

This moderately hard, brown wood has been used for veneering and manufacturing plywood, boarding and pulp (for paper), in addition to general construction work and housebuilding, It has also been used for making furniture, pit props, posts and poles, as well as boxes and crates.

Today south-eastern Asian experts suggest that benguét pine is primarily of value in that region as a resin-producing plant and after that it offers a source of vegetable oil, edible vegetable and timber.