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*Taxus cuspidata*

[Synonyms : *Taxus baccata* var. *cuspidata*, *Taxus baccata* var. *microcarpa*, *Taxus caespitosa*, *Taxus cuspidata* var. *latifolia*, *Taxus cuspidata* var. *microcarpa*]

**JAPANESE YEW** is an evergreen tree. Native to eastern Asia it has needle-like leaves. It is also known as *Araragi* (Japanese), *Ichii* (Japanese), *Japaninmarjakuusi* (Finnish), *Japansk idegran* (Swedish), *Onko* (Japanese), *Tis* (Slovak), and *Tis japonský* (Czech).

Warning – the tree is poisonous.

*Cuspidata* is derived from Latin *cuspis* (lance point) meaning ‘with a short sharp stiff point’. The heartwood (which was once used locally to make bow staves) yields a brown dye. Today the timber is used for marquetry, and making furniture and pencils.

It is believed to have been introduced to the United States in 1862.

North American Aleut Indians collected the driftwood which they used for the ribs of their boats.