## Podocarpus

### podocarpus macrophylla



Podocarpus potted

Native to Japan and Southern China, and commonly referred to as Japanese Yew, Podocarpus is a tough, adaptable tree that is a very popular plant for screens and hedges. Podocarpus has a dense growth habit. It's needle-like leaves are dark green above and paler beneath and reach five inches in length and about one forth of an inch in width. Fertilized female cones produce attractive, edible, berrylike, purplish fruits that ripen over the summer.

Podocarpus is an evergreen, cold-hardy, drought-tolerant plant. Showing best growth and form in full sun, Podocarpus will also grow in shade but will grow more slowly and have a looser appearance. It will tolerate a variety of well drained, acidic soils; however, it does not perform well on wet soils and may become yellow.

Podocarpus reacts well to pruning, making it easy to manipulate the plant's shape; it can be pruned into a hedge or grown into a large showy tree. Although it has a moderate to slow growth rate, it can become very large if left alone to grow.

This tough tree is adaptable to urban conditions and works well in areas of poor soils and restricted rooting space. It will make an attractive specimen, street or parking lot tree. It also works great anywhere a tall, narrow specimen is needed. Podocarpus also makes a good coastal plant because of its tolerance to salt spray and heat.



Podocarpus berries



Podocarpus leaves



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#### **Common Names:**

Yew Pine, Japanese Yew, **Buddhist Pine** 

#### **Environment:**

Soil: well-drained, alkaline, acidic, clay, loam, or sand Sand: moderate to high Exposure: full sun, partial sun or partial shade, shade tolerant

#### Native Origin:

Japan and Southern China

#### Description:

Hardy Range: 8B - 11 Mature Height: 30 - 40' Mature Spread: 20 - 25' Growth Rate: slow to moderate Texture: fine Density: moderate

#### **Ornamental Characteristics:**

Podocarpus are gymnosperms like pines, spruces and cycads. They have needle-like, flat, dark green leaves. Leaves are 2 to 5 inches long. Male plants cones produce pollen and female cones produce attractive fruits. It has a moderate or slow growth rate but can become very large if left alone. It grows best in fertile, well drained soil.







Salt tolerant



Podocarpus in the landscape