



## Yew Pine

*Podocarpus macrophyllus*

02-26



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zones 4-9, 12-24, H1, H2	Full sun or partial shade	Uniform prepared soil	Regular watering	Not ornamental, white to cream colored catkin, red to purple droop berries appear afterwards	15-50 feet tall

Native to mountainous areas of China and Japan, Buddhist pine is an evergreen conifer that typically grows as a narrow-conical tree to 50' tall or sometimes as a large shrub. In cultivation in warm winter areas of the U. S., it usually grows much shorter (to 20-40'). This is a slow-growing conifer that features leathery, soft-textured, shiny dark green, yew-like needles (to 4" long) arranged in dense spirals. Foliage is pleasantly fragrant when bruised. Ellipsoidal fruits (to 1.5" long) are fleshy, olive-green, berry-like cones that ripen in the second year to purple. Fruits may be eaten out of hand or used in pies and cakes. Other common names include Japanese yew, yew pine, southern yew, yew podocarpus and podocarpus. *P. macrophyllus* var. *maki* is a slower-growing version of the species (plants typically attain a height of no more than 6-8' in 10 years) with shorter needles (to 3" long) and a narrow, dense, upright habit. Var. *maki* makes an excellent houseplant that can easily be kept in the 4-5' tall range through regular pruning. Where winter hardy, grow as large shrub or screen. Also effective as a specimen or lawn tree. Clip as a hedge. Foundations. Where not winter hardy, it may be grown in containers that must be overwintered in greenhouses or brightly lit corners of the home. Tolerance of low light conditions enables use as a house plant. Plants are sometimes seen growing in low light situations or under sky lights in shopping malls.