

# Juniperus procera

# Cupressaceae

## Indigenous

- Common names:** Arusha: ol darakwa, ol tarakwa; Bara: semit; Chag: nso, mdrawaka, mtarakwa, nderakwa; Eng: East African pencil cedar; Kinga: mselemko, mbechera; Maasai: ol darakwa, oltarakwa; Meru: msingo, nderakwa; Nyak: selemuka; Samb: mwangati, mlalo, mbalu.
- Ecology:** A large, valuable timber tree found in the highland forests of East Africa from Ethiopia to Tanzania, 1,500-3,000 m. It is common in West Usambaras, on the northern slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro and on isolated mountains of Maasailand. It is the largest juniper in the world, doing best in high-rainfall areas but can survive in quite dry conditions once established.
- Uses:** Firewood, timber (joinery, pencils), poles, posts, flooring, roof shingles, beehives, medicine (bark, leaves, twigs, buds), shade, ornamental, windbreak.
- Description:** An evergreen tree to about 40 m with straight trunk and a pyramidal shape when young. The foliage is finer **and** more open than cypress. **BARK:** thin grey-brown, fissures, peeling with age. **LEAVES:** young leaves prickly to 1 cm, soon replaced by scale-like mature leaves, blue-green, triangular and closely overlapping on the branchlets **FRUIT:** cones; male cones are small and yellow with poller: female purple-blue fleshy "berries" about 8 mm, the pulp containing 1-4 hard seeds.
- Propagation** Seedlings, wildings.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: 37,000-47,000. Germination **rate** 30-70% in 25-80 days.
- treatment:** not necessary, but to get improved results immerse in boiling water for 1 minute and soak until the water cools to room temperature.
- storage:** up to a year if stored in a cool, dry place.
- Management:** Fairly fast growing in open stands, slow growing elsewhere. Prune and thin trees for timber and poles.
- Remarks:** Resistant to fungal decay and termites. Large-dimension good timber is difficult to get as mature trees are often hollow due to heart rot. Was established as a plantation tree in Shume (Lushoto) but its slow growth **rate** discouraged further planting.

