

Tree factsheet

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***Taxus baccata* L.**

taxonomy	
author, year	Linnaeus, 1753
synonym	
Family	Taxaceae
Eng. Name	Yew
Dutch name	Taxus, Venijnboom, IJf
subspecies	
varieties	
hybrids	<i>T. x media</i> (<i>T. baccata</i> x <i>T. cuspidata</i>)
cultivars, frequently planted	
<i>T. baccata</i> 'Dovastoniana'	as a park tree
<i>T. baccata</i> 'Fastigiata'	as a park tree
<i>T. x media</i> 'Hicksii'	in hedges
references	Vuure, T. van 1990. De Taxus. Stichting Kritisch Bosbeheer
	Earle, C.J. Gymnosperm database www.conifers.org
	Plants for a Future Database; www.pfaf.org/index.html
morphology	
crown habit	tree, pyramidal
max. height (m)	15 (20)
max. dbh (cm)	100 or more
actual size Great Britain	approx. year 400 B.C (?), Ulcombe Church, Kent, England year..., d(130) 334, h..., Llanfaredd, Builth Wells, Powys, Wales year..., d(010) 388, h..., Ashbrittle Church, Somerset, England year..., d(...) 89, h 29, Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire, England
actual size The Netherlands	year 1600-1700, d(130) 119, h 8, Brummen, Gelderland year 1750-1800, d(130) 124, h 20 year 1870-1880, d(130) 92, h 26
leaf length (cm)	2-3 single
leaf petiole (cm)	1-1,5
leaf colour upper surface	dark green
leaf colour under surface	light green
leaves arrangement	alternate
flowering	March
flowering plant	often dioecious
flower	hermaphrodite
flower diameter (cm)	0,3
pollination	wind
fruit; length	cone-like fleshy berry; 0,5-0,7 cm
fruit petiole (cm)	0,1
seed; length	nut; 0,5-0,7 cm
seed-wing length (cm)	-
weight 1000 seeds (g)	66
seeds ripen	Sep. - Oct. same year
seed dispersal	birds

habitat	
natural distribution	Europe, Morocco, Turkey, Northern Iran
in N.W. Europe since	2500 B.C.
natural areas The Netherlands	forests
geological landscape types The Netherlands (Hoek 1997)	dune area, coversand area, ice-pushed ridges
forested areas The Netherlands	dry, moist and wet soils; old forests
area Netherlands	not a forest canopy tree, but an understorey tree
% of forest trees in the Netherlands	< 0,6
soil type	
pH-KCl	3-7 (also on limestone)
soil fertility	nutrient poor to nutrient rich
light	highly shade tolerant
① shade tolerance (0=no tolerance to 5=max. tolerance)	4.4
① drought tolerance (0=no tolerance to 5=max. tolerance)	3.0
① waterlogging tolerance (0=no tolerance to 5=max. tolerance)	1.3
plant communities in the Netherlands	Klasse der Eiken-Beukenbossen op voedselarme grond: -Stellario-Carpinetum – Eiken-Haagbeukenbos
management	
status Europe	rare indigenous species in forests (increasing), frequent in urban environment
status The Netherlands	infrequent indigenous species in forests, frequent in urban environment
application	nature tree, ornamental
propagation	seed; named cultivars by cuttings
regeneration	planting; natural regeneration by seed
optimal gap size for regeneration	understorey
first plantation Netherlands	
resprouting after cutting	yes, but not always successful
growth rate (M.A.I. in $m^3ha^{-1}j^{-1}$)	slow;
diseases	
insects	
wood	
wood	Taxus
wood structures key characteristics of pores	Absence of resin canals; spiral thickenings
density heartwood (kg/m^3)	(600-)650-800(-900) (12% moisture content)
elastic modulus (N/mm^2)	
durability heartwood	fungus 2
heartwood colour	dark red-brown
sapwood colour	yellow-brown
contents	taxol
products	turnery, veneer, furniture, walking sticks, bows
non-timber products	
highly toxic plant	taxol

① Ülo Niinemets and Fernando Valladares. 2006. Tolerance to shade, drought, and waterlogging of temperate Northern Hemisphere trees and shrubs. Ecological Monographs 76:521–547



Mature Taxus in Arboretum De Dreijen, Wageningen
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stem of an old ornamental Taxus, De Steeg
©Jeroen Philippona



Taxus wood
©Chris Sonnemans



Taxus leaves and pollen flowers
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Bark, leaves and fruits
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Fruit in detail
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