

Juniperus communis ssp. *hemisphaerica* (J. Presl & C. Presl) Nyman

Key:

Dots refer to the native sites of the species

Numbers refer to the nearby Botanical Collections

Starting references

Family

Cupressaceae

IUCN category (2001)

Critically Endangered

Habit

Dwarf evergreen shrub.

Habitat

Species-rich maritime heath. In Cornwall, on broken, rocky slopes; in Wales, in wind-pruned coastal scrub and dwarf heath.

Reasons for decline

Excessive grazing which prevents establishment of young bushes.

Insufficient grazing which reduces the area suitable for juniper regeneration. This may also cause the loss of adult bushes as tree recruitment leads to increased shade.

Direct clearance of stands.

Excessive burning which may destroy young regeneration and adult bushes.

Low economic and cultural value attached to the species.

Distribution in wild

Country	Locality & Vice County	Sites (10km ² occurrences)	Population (plants)
Wales	Ramsey Island, Pembrokeshire	1	4
England	Lizard Peninsula, W. Cornwall	1	7 (in 1970)



Ex situ Collections

Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

- 1 National Botanic Garden of Wales
- 2 Swansea Botanic Garden
- 3 St Michael's Mount (NT)
- 4 Duchy College
- 5 Trebah Garden
- 6 Glendurgan Gardens (NT)
- 7 Trelissick (NT)
- 8 Tregothnan Botanic Garden
- 9 Eden Project

Gardens with specialisation on genus *Juniperus*

Dawcyk Botanic Garden

Potential to grow the species in *ex situ* Collections

From Plants For A Future for species *Juniperus communis*

- Propagation

The seed requires a period of cold stratification. The seed has a hard seed coat and can be very slow to germinate, requiring a cold period followed by a warm period and then another cold spell, each of 2 - 3 months duration. Soaking the seed for 3 - 6 seconds in boiling water may speed up the germination process. The seed is best sown as soon as it is ripe in a cold frame. Some might germinate in the following spring, though most will take another year. Another possibility is to harvest the seed 'green' (when the embryo has fully formed but before the seedcoat has hardened). The seedlings can be potted up into individual pots when they are large enough to handle. Grow on in pots until large enough, then plant out in early summer. When stored dry, the seed can remain viable for several years. Cuttings of mature wood, 5 -

10cm with a heel, September/October in a cold frame. Plant out in the following autumn. Layering in September/October. Takes 12 months.

- **Cultivation**

An easily grown plant, it succeeds in hot dry soils and in poor soils. Succeeds in most soils so long as they are well drained, preferring a neutral or slightly alkaline soil. Does well in chalky soils. Grows well in heavy clay soils. Tolerates a pH range from 4 to 8. Succeeds in light woodland but dislikes heavy shade. Established plants are very tolerant of drought. Although the fully dormant plant is cold-tolerant throughout Britain, the young growth in spring can be damaged by late frosts. All parts of the plant are very aromatic. Juniper is a very polymorphic species that has a long history of culinary and medicinal use. It is frequently grown in the ornamental and herb garden, there is a huge range of cultivars of widely diverse habits. At least some forms tolerate maritime exposure, there is a thriving colony in an exposed position at Land's End in Cornwall. The fruits take 2 - 3 years to ripen on the plant. Plants are usually very slow growing, often only a few centimetres a year. Resists honey fungus. Plants are sometimes attacked by a rust, this fungus has an aecidial stage on hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.). Dioecious. Male and female plants must be grown if seed is required.

Conservation information

Linkages to BAPs

A Species Action Plan has been produced for *Juniperus communis*
Lead partner is Dominic Price, Plantlife Tel:01722 342749

The LBAPs working on the species are:

A Local Biodiversity Plan for Pembrokeshire

Cornwall's Biodiversity Vol 1, 2 And 3

Habitat Management

National Nature Reserve & Special Area of Conservation

The Lizard

SSSI

Baulk Head To Mullion

Caerthillian To Kennack

Goonhilly Downs

Mullion Cliff To Predannack Cliff

West Lizard

Conservation programmes

There are bushes from cultivation of cuttings at Cambridge University Botanic Garden and some cuttings of these have been taken by Lewis Frost and are being grown in a National Trust garden as a backup. (Plantlife's species dossier, July 2004).

Web References

- Plants For A Future: http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Juniperus+communis&CAN=LATIND
- UK Species Action Plan: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=394>
- Plantlife species dossier for *Juniperus communis*: http://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/assets/saving-species/saving-species-dossier/Juniperus_communis_Dossier_part1.pdf
- NBN Gateway database: <http://www.searchnbn.net>