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Background:

Juniperus bermudiana L. (Cupressaceae) is commonly called Bermuda juniper or Bermuda cedar. *J. bermudiana* is native to the Bermuda Islands where the berries were used by early settlers for food and drink. The wood was used to make furniture, houses and ships (1).

Horticulturists find that the tree does not grow as large (4 m high and 3 m wide after 10 years) as in its native Bermuda (15 m tall). *J. bermudiana* is recommended for planting in zone 9 (2).

During the early 1940s, two scale insects were apparently introduced from the US mainland. *Lepidosaphes newsteadi* and *Carulaspis minima* killed 90% of *J. bermudiana* trees by 1955. By 1978 it was estimated that 99% of the trees were dead (Adams, 1995). Predatory insects were released but tree mortality still occurred. The 1% of *J. bermudiana* trees remaining demonstrated some resistance to the scale insects. Progeny from these resistant trees are being replanted (3)

Description:

J. bermudiana in Bermuda can grow 15 m tall. The thin bark exfoliates in strips. The leafy branchlets are 2-4 cm in length and 1.3-1.6 mm wide. Leaves are opposite, forming strongly quadriform (four sided) branchlets. Green leaves are decurrent (winged or ridge-like) on young plants and on rapidly growing shoots. Otherwise the leaves are scale-green and 1 mm in length. Glands on scale-like leaves are inconspicuous. Cones are dark blue, 4-5 mm long and 6-8 mm wide. It is believed that the pollen is shed in the spring (Adams, 1995)

Control:

No control methods were found in the literature for *J. bermudiana*. However, it is closely related to *J. virginiana*. Control methods for *J. virginiana* should provide control for *J. bermudiana* (Adams, 1995)

References:

Adams, R.P. 1995. Revisionary study of Caribbean species of *Juniperus* (Cupressaceae). *Phytologia* 78(2):134-150.

Websites:

1. <http://cyberfair.gsn.org/gprep/trees.html>
2. <http://www.cln.co.nz/juniperus/species.html>
3. <http://www.bamz.org/biodiversity/cahow.htm>