






© Corrie Barklmore



Geographical range

Knowledge 
Experts 
Get Involved 

Amazing Species: Japanese Cedar

The **Japanese Cedar**, *Cryptomeria japonica*, is listed as Near Threatened on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This attractive conifer is found in Japan, where its distribution is highly fragmented. Yakushima is one of the few areas where natural primary forest remains, with many Japanese Cedar trees that are over 1000 years old.

Extensive logging has removed the Japanese Cedar from much of its natural range, resulting in most of the populations being small, fragmented, and disjunct. Plantation forestry in Japan has made extensive use of this species, reintroducing it to many areas where the population had been greatly reduced. However, some plantations are established with clonal material, or from trees that are not local, and the potential impacts of genetic contamination from these sources are unknown.

This species is protected in Yakushima, and a few other places, although logging is still permitted in many locations where it occurs. The impacts of genetic contamination from cultivated and reintroduced Japanese Cedars must be ascertained to ensure genetic diversity is maintained.



The production of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is made possible through the IUCN Red List Partnership.