



BOTANICAL NAME- *Thuja occidentalis*

ENGLISH NAME – Thuja, White cedar, biota

HINDI NAME – Vidya, morpankhi

FAMILY - Cupressaceae

DESCRIPTION

- ❖ Popular common name of **Vidya plant** is 'Mayoor pankhi' or 'Morpankhi', due to its distinct appearance of foliage that resembles open feather tail of peacock.
- ❖ Smallish green; evergreen.
- ❖ Leaves scaly like, overlapping, closely arranged on the shoots; blunt tipped, dark green; grooved at the base.
- ❖ Flowers male and female separate, on the same tree; male cones-flowers yellowish green, female cone-flowers purplish, at the end of shoots.
- ❖ Fruit from fertilised female cone, bluish green, upright fruit-cones, 6-8 overlapping scales, each one with down turned hook

USES :

- ❖ They are widely grown as ornamental trees, and extensively used for hedges
- ❖ The wood is light, soft and aromatic. It can be easily split and resists decay. The wood has been used for many applications from making chests that repel moths to shingles
- ❖ Oil of Thuja contains the terpene thujone which has been studied for its GABA receptor antagonizing effects, with potentially lethal properties.