

## **Origins and types**

Cedar trees usually grow in the mountains ranging between 1350 and 2000 meters of altitude above sea level. The mountains are favorable for the growth of these trees as they are generally characterized by cold winters and damp hot summers.

These forest trees are most abundant and develop on plateaus and highlands.

3- The Cedars of Lebanon: the roots of the cedars grow horizontally and some penetrate deep into the cracks in the rocks to absorb moisture. Some cedars can reach a height of more than 65 meters and are 2,500 years old.

As for their trunks, they usually grow straight and vertically, and vary in width according to their age while their branches are wide-sweeping, sometimes upright, and can stretch to reach forty meters. The leaves are made of dark green needles, which are held upright above the foliage, and vary in length between 15 to 35 millimeters. The cedar is monoecious; it has unisexual flowers with both the male and female sex being borne on the same plant.

The fruiting cones, ranging from 8 to 10 centimeters, which take almost 30 months to mature, hold firmly in their places on the branches. Young cones are light green, mature cones dull brown. The seeds are often winged and have a broad yet lightweight membrane that can be easily carried by the wind when they leave the cones.

## **Etymology**

The name Cedar was given to this type of trees in various Semitic languages since ancient times.

In Hebrew and Syriac languages: the name holds the meaning of strength, stability and longevity.

In Arabic: the name holds the meaning of firmness and resilience.

In the local language: the name Cedar is attributed to elderly people who despite their age kept a well-preserved vertical posture.