

DEN NØJSOMME BUSK PÅ HEDEN THE HARDY BUSH ON THE MOOR

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Den nøjsomme busk på heden

Jeg har altid været fascineret af enebærbusken. Denne nøjsomme vækst står på heden, der hvor blæsten og frost for alvor tager fat, og hvor bundforholdene er næringsfattige og sandet. Busken klarer sig tilsyneladende bedst, der hvor de fleste andre træer og buske giver op.

Buskens sylespidse nåle gør busken utilnærmelig. Kun fårene med deres tykke laguld benytter enebærbusken til at finde læ, eller til at kradse sig, når ubehagelige insekter har boret sig ind igennem deres tykke uld. Dens hårdførhed gør enebærbusken til det mest udbredte nåletræ på den nordlige halvkugle.

Enebærret er egentligt slet ikke et bær. Lige som hos andre nåletræer, bærer enebærbusken kogler. Men koglernes skæl er hos enebærbusken omdannet til et saftfyldt hylster omkring frøene. Fuglene æder bærrene og spreder dermed frøene ud over landskabet. Bærrene modnes først i løbet af to år.

For mig har enebærbusken altid haft en status som noget, der kunne være meget gammelt. Måske er det de forvredne rester af ældre buske, der kan findes overalt på heden? Det er en hårdfør busk. I Norge er der fundet en busk, der er mere end et tusinde år gammel.

Men vores historie fortæller også, at enebærbusken altid har spillet en rolle for mennesket. Selv fortidens ægyptere benyttede enebærolie, når de balsamerede deres lig. Vikingerne anvendte enebærrene ved fremstillingen af mjød og i dag anvendes den til produktion af gin. Grenene fra busken har også altid været anvendt i husholdningen og til at flette hegn og kurve med.

Selv om enebærbusken sjældent bliver ret høj, så står den ofte højt i landskabet, hvor solen rigtigt får fat. Derfor elsker hedens fugle også at sidde og synge for deres kære i toppen af buskens eviggrønne grene.

The hardy bush on the moor

I have always been fascinated by the common juniper bush. This hardy bush thrives on the moor, where the wind and the frost plays havoc with the plants, and where the condition of the soil is poor and sandy. The bush seems to do well, where most other trees and bushes give up.

The sharply pointed needles make the bush unapproachable. Only the sheep with their thick fur of wool use the juniper bushes to find shelter, or to scratch, when unpleasant insects have drilled themselves through the thick wool. Its hardiness makes the juniper bush the most widely distributed coniferous tree in the northern hemisphere.

Really, the juniper berry is not a berry at all. Just as with other conifers, the juniper bush are wearing cones. But on the juniper bush the scales of the cones have been transformed into a juice-filled sleeve around the seeds. The birds eat the berries and thus spread the seeds beyond the landscape. The berries are ripened within two years.

For me, the common juniper bush has always been given a status as something that could be very old. Perhaps it is the twisted remnants of older bushes, which can be found everywhere on the moor? It is a hardy bush. In Norway, a bush has been estimated to be more than a thousand years old.

But our history also tells me that the juniper bush always has fated to play a part in the life of man. Even in the ancient Egypt, the Egyptians used juniper oil, when they embalmed the dead bodies. The Vikings used juniper, when they brew the mead, and today it is used in the brewing of gin. The branches from the bush have also always been used in the household and to make the wattles and weave baskets.

Although the juniper bush seldom grows high, it is often placed topmost in the landscape, where the sun is most powerful. Therefore, the birds sit and sing for their loved ones at the top of the eternal green branches of the juniper bush.



Kongserslev, Himmerland, december 2008

The village Kongserslev, Himmerland, December 2008



Kongerslev, Himmerland, december 2008

The village Kongerslev, Himmerland, December 2008



Kongerslev, Himmerland, december 2014

The village Kongerslev, Himmerland, December 2014



Kongerslev, Himmerland, juli 2015

The village Kongerslev, Himmerland, July 2015



Kongerslev, Himmerland, juli 2011

The village Kongerslev, Himmerland, July 2011



Rebild, Himmerland, august 2019

Rebild, Himmerland, August 2019



Kongerslev, Himmerland, juli 2005

The village Kongerslev, Himmerland, July 2005



*Kongerslev,
Himmerland, december 2014*

*The village Kongerslev,
Himmerland, December 2014*



Kongerslev, Himmerland, december 2010

The village Kongerslev, Himmerland, December 2010



*Kongerslev,
Himmerland, december 2015*

*The village Kongerslev,
Himmerland, December 2015*

KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: Den nøjsomme busk på heden
Af Keld Jensen*

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*Photo of the week: The hardy bush on the moor
By Keld Jensen*

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