


FAMILY

Solanaceae

GENUS

Lycium

SPECIFIC EPITHET

barbarum

CULTIVAR

'Phoenix Tears'

COMMON NAMES

Goji berry, Chinese boxthorn, Chinese wolfberry, Barbary matrimony-vine

SYNONYMS

Lycium halimifolium, *L. vulgare*

LEAVES

Narrow, alternate

FLOWER COLOR

Light purple, bell-shaped

BLOOM PERIOD

May through summer

PLANT TYPE

Deciduous perennial

PROPAGATION

Cuttings, lateral shoots

USES

Medicinal, culinary

HEIGHT/WIDTH

10' tall (can be trimmed to 4')

LIGHT

Full sun to partial shade

SOIL

Alkaline (pH higher than 7.0)

WATER

At roots 1 inch or more every two weeks for new plants

HABIT

On a trellis like a vine, or trimmed to a bush

HARDINESS

Hardy to -27°F; likes hot dry summers

2013 Promising Plant

Lycium barbarum

'Phoenix Tears'

Promising Qualities

- ❖ Berries currently very popular
- ❖ Fewer thorns than other cultivars
- ❖ Fruits and flowers until heavy frost
- ❖ Very drought tolerant once established

Lycium barbarum, Goji berry, has become very popular in recent years. The berries contain high levels of antioxidants and are considered a "superfood." Chemicals found in the plant have shown to be effective for treating hyperglycemia (Dr. James Duke's Phytochemical and Ethnobotanical Database). *L. barbarum* is native to temperate parts of China, but has been naturalized elsewhere. Plants brought to Utah by Chinese railroad workers in the mid-1800s continue to thrive and have been surviving and seeding themselves along the trans-continental rail line, through extreme heat and biting cold, for 150 years.

Plants develop thorns after their second year. These can be controlled by proper pruning. The plants are self fertile; fruits form in the third year primarily on new growth. Lateral shoots, which can become invasive, also form in the third year. The *L. barbarum* cultivar 'Phoenix Tears' is sold by the Phoenix Tears Nursery in Logan, Utah. Their cuttings are from the same Promontory Point bushes left behind by the Chinese workers.

Reference:

Access Dr. Duke's database through www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/duke/ethnobot

Photos:

Top left: ewKennel

Where can I find this plant?

Raintree Nursery

www.raintreenursery.com

One Green World

www.onegreenworld.com

Gurney's Seed & Nursery Co.

www.Gurneys.com

The Herb Society of America

9109 Kirtland-Chardon Rd.

Kirtland, OH 44094

