PLANT FACT SHEET

Casasia clusiifolia Urb.

GENUS *Casasia* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

COMMON NAMES Seven-year apple

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

Edible when overripe. It is eaten by making a hole in one end of the fruit and sucking the pulp out.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 3 m tall. The bark is pale. Male and female flowers are on separate plants. The leaves are narrowly oval and curved at the edges. They are 5-15 cm long. They are very shiny and clustered at the ends of the branches. The flowers are tube shaped and have 5 lobes. They are white and have a jasmine like scent. The fruit are 5-5-7 cm long. They are green and turn yellow when ripe. When fully ripe the fruit is soft, wrinkled and prune like. The pulp is black and jelly like. It has a licorice flavour. It has small brown seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical and subtropical plant. It grows on sand dunes near the coast. It can tolerate salt.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants can flower and fruit all year round.

NOTES

There are about 10 Casasia species. They are mostly in the Caribbean islands.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/0313750f-9261-4eeb-a856-bb1592a26caf