PLANT FACT SHEET

Prosopis alba Griseb.

GENUS *Prosopis* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES White carob tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Pods

The pods are roasted and used as a coffee substitute.
They are also used for other drinks and the seeds for flour.
The pulp of the ripe pods can be eaten raw or cooked.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 8-10 m high. It has spines. It has a short trunk about 1 m across. The crown is 10 m across. The bark is thin and grey. The leaves have small leaflets along the stalk. The flowers are small and greenish-white. The fruit are pods and are red-orange. They are 20 cm long. The seeds are brown and 7 mm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in subtropical regions. It cannot tolerate frost. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall between 100-500 mm. It can tolerate drought. It can grow in salty soils. It grows below 1,000 m above sea level. It can grow to 3,000 m above sea level. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 2,500 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Two or more plants are needed as flowers cross the female flowers being ready before the male flowers.

NOTES

Also as Mimosaceae.

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