PLANT FACT SHEET

Diospyros kirkii Hiern

GENUS *Diospyros* **FAMILY** Ebenaceae

COMMON NAMES Pink diospyros

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows to 7 m high. The bark is dark grey and very rough. It often flakes off in square sections. It loses many leaves during the year. The leaves are oval or round and 15 cm long by 8.5 cm across. The young leaves and stems have pink hairs. The flowers are pinkish. They have pinkish woolly hairs. They occur in heads of a few flowers in the axils of leaves. These are about 2 cm long. The fruit are round and 3.5-4 cm across. They are yellow when mature. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It occurs in open woodland and on rocky and stony ridges. It needs a sunny position. It grows between 400-1,250 m above sea level. It grows in areas with a rainfall between 500-1270 mm per year. It is best with temperatures between 16°-27°C. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Trees can be grow from seeds but they do not germinate easily. Plants can be grown from large cuttings and also from root suckers.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It takes about 6 months for the fruit to develop and ripen. They ripen during the dry season.

NOTES

There are about 485 species of Diospyros mostly in the tropics.

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