PLANT FACT SHEET

Jacaratia mexicana A. DC.

GENUS *Jacaratia* **FAMILY** Caricaceae

COMMON NAMES Mexican papaya

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Trunk starch

The fruit are eaten raw or cooked and used in sweet dishes.
The starch from the trunk can be used for a kind of tortilla.

DESCRIPTION

A small soft wooded tree. It grows 5-12 m tall. The trunk is thick at the base and tapers upwards. It has a few heavy branches. The leaves are compound and divided into leaflets like fingers on a hand. The fruit are oval and 4-15 cm long. There are many large seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in dry or moist lowland forest. It grows up to 800 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants can begin flowering when 3 m tall.

NOTES

There are 7 Jacaratia species in tropical America.

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