PLANT FACT SHEET

Albizia harveyi Fourn.

GENUS *Albizia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Sickle-leaved albizia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Gum

The gum is chewed as a snack.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 15 m tall. It loses its leaves during the year. The crown is rounded and the stems are bare. The bark is dark grey-brown and has ridges along it. The leaves are compound and twice divided. They have a feathery appearance. There are 12-24 pairs of leaflets along 15 pairs of side stalks (pinnae). The leaflets are slightly curved. They have a sharp point. They are pale green underneath. The flower heads are round. They are creamy-white. They are at the ends of twigs and about 3 cm across. The fruit are flat pods. They are large and rusty-red and hang down. The pods are 15 cm long by 3.5 cm wide. They split open easily.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It cannot tolerate cold. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall above 400 mm. It grows in sandy soil. It can tolerate salty soils. It grows between 40-2,130 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. The seeds need boiling water poured over them and then allowed to soak for 24 hours before planting.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow fairly slowly.

NOTES

Also as Mimosaceae.

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