



PLANT FACT SHEET



Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Senna siamea (Lam.) H.S. Irwin and Barneby

GENUS *Senna* FAMILY Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Cassod Tree, Siamese senna tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Flowers, Fruit, Pods, Vegetable

The young flowers, fruits and leaves are eaten cooked.

The leaves are eaten in Thailand after boiling for 1-2 hours and then discarding the water. They are bitter but are used in soups.

The flowers are eaten in curries.

CAUTION: The leaves and seeds are poisonous without treatment.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows to 10 m high and spreads to 4 m across. It can be a small tree or grow up to 30 m high. The stem is erect and slender. The leaves are dark green and 30 cm long. They are divided into 4-14 pairs of leaflets each 3-7.5 cm long by 1.2-2.6 cm wide. The flowers are yellow and arranged in large sprays. These can be 45 cm long. They grow at the end of branches. The fruit are black pods 35 cm long by 1.2-1.6 cm wide and bulging over the seeds. The pods have thickened edges.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It comes from SE tropical Asia and grows in Ethiopia and East Africa. It suits subhumid and arid zones in the tropics. It grows in the Sahel. It needs moist, well drained soils. In East Africa it grows from sea level to 1,600 m altitude. It grows in areas with a rainfall of 700-1500 mm annual average. It is drought and frost tender. It can grow in arid places. It suits hardiness zones 10-11. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The plants are grown from seed. The seed need to have the hard seed coat broken before planting. The plants can be cut back and will re-grow. They can be used as a hedge.

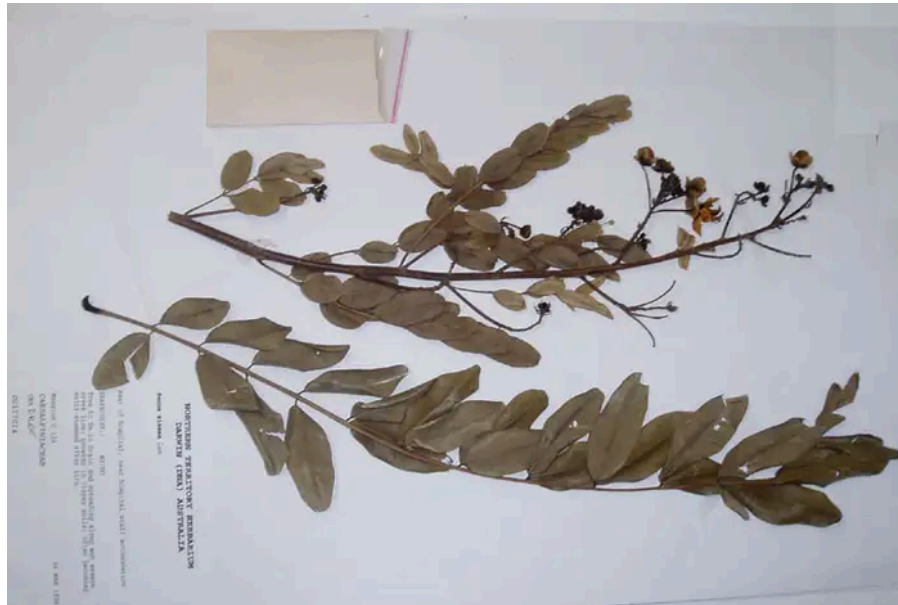
Harvesting and Seed Production

It has a fast growth rate.

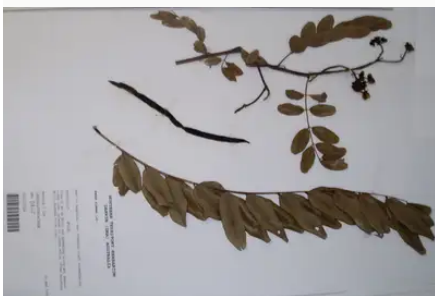
NOTES

There are about 100 *Cassia* species. Also as *Caesalpinaceae*.

PICTURES



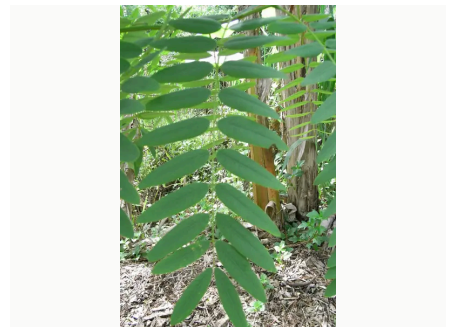
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