PLANT FACT SHEET

Butia yatay (Mart.) Becc.

GENUS *Butia* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Yatay palm, Argentine yatay, Wine palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Buds, Seeds, Cabbage, Palm heart, Oil

The young buds are eaten.
The seeds are eaten and yield a fatty oil.
The fruit are used to prepare a local brandy.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen palm. It grows up to 4-5 m tall, but can be 12 m tall. The trunk has the leaf bases attached. The leaves are long and feather like. They are 2-3 m long and bright blue-grey. They curve over. The leaf stalk has spines. The large bract below the flower stalk had a waxy bloom and is hairy. The flowers are large 10-16 mm long. The fruit are large and yellow. They are 3-4 cm long. They are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in tropical and subtropical regions. They need a well drained soil and sunny position. They are fairly hardy to frost and can be grown in temperate areas. In Argentina it grows below 500 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seed are slow and erratic to germinate. They take 6 months to 2 years to germinate. The seed have a hard outer shell and cracking this may quicken germination.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants are generally slow growing.

NOTES

There are about 9 Butea species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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