PLANT FACT SHEET

Boswellia serrata Roxb. ex Colebr.

GENUS *Boswellia* **FAMILY** Burseraceae

COMMON NAMES Indian frankincense, Indian olibanum-tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Seeds, Fruit, Sap, Nuts, Gum

The flowers and seeds are eaten.
A soup is made from the fruit. They are also pickled.
It can also be used to make an edible gum.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized deciduous tree. It grows 9-15 m high. The bark is thin and a greenish-grey colour. It peels off in thin flakes. It gives drops of pink resin when cut. The leaves are 20-45 cm long and are at the ends of branches. There are 17-31 leaflets and these are 3-8 cm long by 1-1.5 cm wide. They are sword shaped and have rounded teeth along the edge. The flowers are white. There are 5-7 sepals and petals. The fruit is 1.5 cm long and is 3 angled with 3 valves. There are 3 heart shaped 1 seeded nuts.

HABITAT

A tropical plant.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

In the Ghats in India fruit are available February to June.

NOTES

There are 24 Boswellia species. The gum has a smell and is used in incense.

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