PLANT FACT SHEET

Cassia grandis L.f.

GENUS *Cassia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Coral shower, Horse Cassia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: pod, Fruit

The pulp of the fruit is eaten. It is used in a drink made by cooking the pulp with milk.
CAUTION: It can be a laxative. It should only be eaten in small amounts.

DESCRIPTION

A semi-evergreen tree. It loses some of its leaves in the dry season. It grows 20-30 m high. It spreads 5 m wide. The leaves are glossy olive green. They have a fringe of hairs along the edge. The leaves are made up of 14-42 leaflets. The flowers are in upright panicles. These are 20 cm long. They are pink. The fruit are large swollen black pods. These can be 45 cm long.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It is native to C. and S. America. It is best in rich, moist, well-drained soils. It needs a protected sunny position. In Central America it grows from sea level to 800 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 11-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. The seeds need treatment to break the hard seed coat.

NOTES

There are 100 Cassia species. This group has been revised to a smaller more consistent group. Also as Caesalpinaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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