PLANT FACT SHEET

Prosopis velutina Wooton

GENUS *Prosopis* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Mesquite, Velvet mesquite

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Pods

The pods are used as food. They are also stored for later use.
The gum is chewed. It is also dried, ground, boiled and cooled then eaten as a candy.
The seeds are winnowed, parched, and ground into flour for bread or cakes.
The inner bark is used as a substitute for rennet.
The flower catkins are sucked for their sweet taste.
The pods are crushed and soaked and used to make a drink.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized tree. It grows 4.5-12 m high and spreads 4.5-12 m wide. The bark is smooth and dark brown. The branches are velvety and covered with spines. The leaves are compound. They are narrow and dull green. They have 2-3 leaflets and each of these have 15-20 pairs of small leaflets. They have fine hairs over them. The flowers are yellow or green and are in clusters. The fruit are brown pods. They are 7-22 cm long by 7-12 mm wide.

HABITAT

It grows in warm temperate places. It can grow in dry salty soils. It grows between 150-1,700 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places. It grows in the Sonoran Desert. It suits hardiness zones 8-11.

NOTES

Also as Mimosaceae.

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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