PLANT FACT SHEET

Poisonous

This plant, or parts of it, can be poisonous. Do not eat it unless you know which parts are safe and how they must be prepared.

Swietenia mahogani (L.) Jacq.

GENUS *Swietenia* **FAMILY** Meliaceae

COMMON NAMES Cuban Mahogany

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. Sometimes it loses its leaves for a short period. It can grow 30 m high. The trunk branches at the top. The leaves are long and divided into leaflets along the stalk. There are 4-5 oval leaflets which taper to the tip. The flowers are small and yellow-white. They grow in panicles in the axils of leaves. The fruit are woody capsules. The fruit are large and these open at the base to release a number of winged seeds. The fruit open in 5 sections. The seeds are flat and have wings.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is native to S Florida, the Caribbean and the West Indies. It grows in humid and dry lowland woodland. It often grows in seasonally flooded areas. It will grow in limestone soils. It is a tropical plant. It suits hardiness zones 11-12. In Yunnan. In Townsville Queens BG.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or by rooting cuttings in a hotbed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing.

NOTES

There are 3 Swietenia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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