PLANT FACT SHEET

Ficus fraseri Miq.

GENUS *Ficus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Sandpaper Fig, Fraser's fig

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are edible but have little taste.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 6-10-15 m high. The trunk is straight. The bark is grey and smooth. The small branches and young leaves are densely covered with rusty brown hairs. The fruit is round and dark yellow. The leafy structures at the base of the leaves is sword shaped and 1-2 cm long and covered with a rusty red covering. The leaf stalk is 1-1.5 cm long. The leaf blade is oval and 10-15 cm long by 5-8 cm wide. They are papery. There are coarse bent hairs on the upper surface and a golden yellow layer underneath. The base is wedge shaped the edges have teeth and the tip tapers. There are 3-4 secondary veins on each side of the main vein. The figs occur in pairs in the axils of leaves and are round and 1-1.5 cm across. They have a golden yellow covering. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the subtropics and warm temperate zones. They grow naturally in rainforests. It grows from sea level to 800 m above sea level. It is light demanding. It needs moist deep soil. It grows on the edge of forests.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings. The seed are removed from the fig and mixed with sand before sowing as they are very small. Take the seed from ripe orange-brown fruit.

NOTES

There are about 800-1000 Ficus species. They are mostly in the tropics. There are 120 Ficus species in tropical America.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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