PLANT FACT SHEET

Lecythis lanceolata Poir.

GENUS *Lecythis* **FAMILY** Lecythidaceae

COMMON NAMES Sapucaia-mirim

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Nuts, Seeds - oil

The nuts are eaten fresh.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 12-28 m high. The crown is round and dense. The trunk is upright and 50-70 cm across. The bark is thick and has deep cracks along it. The leaves have wavy edges. They are 3-9 cm long and 2-5 cm wide. The leaf stalks are 5-10 cm long and hairy. The flowers are in groups below the leaves. The flowering groups are 8-16 cm long. There are 2-25 flowers that are red. The fruit is hard and has a cap. It is 20 cm long by 20 cm wide and has 4-12 seeds. The aril is white.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in forests near the Atlantic in Brazil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The ripe fruit are put in the sun to open then the seeds planted fresh. Seeds germinate in 5-7 weeks. Seedlings are transplanted in 7-8 months.

NOTES

There are 26 Lecythis species.

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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