PLANT FACT SHEET

Diospyros texana Scheele

GENUS *Diospyros* **FAMILY** Ebenaceae

COMMON NAMES Texas persimmon

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit can be eaten fresh or dried.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous shrub or tree. It grows 8-12 m high. The trunk is short. It is 30 cm across. The crown is narrow. The leaves are rounded or oblong and leathery. They are 2-4 cm long by 10-19 mm wide. They are rounded or have a notch at the tip and taper to the base. They are widest above the middle. They are dull green above and paler underneath. The flowers are white and fragrant. They are bell shaped and 6 mm long and wide. Male and female flowers are on separate trees. There are 1-3 male flowers together and female flowers occur singly. The fruit are cherry-like and yellow to red or black. They are 19 mm wide and have a black, juicy, sweet pulp. There are 3-8 seeds.

HABITAT

It grows in dry rocky uplands. In Texas it can grow to 1220 m altitude. It is frost hardy. It can tolerate drought and pollution. It can grow on a range of soils. It can tolerate a range of pH values from acidic to alkaline. It suits hardiness zones 7-9.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

A slow growing tree.

NOTES

There are about 485 species of Diospyros mostly in the tropics.

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