PLANT FACT SHEET

Enterolobium cyclocarpum (Jacq.) Griseb.

GENUS *Enterolobium* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Earpod tree, Mexican walnut tree, Pitchwood tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Pods, Fruit, Vegetable

The seeds are sometimes toasted and eaten. They are also put in stews.
The yellow layer of the young pods is eaten.
The seed coat is removed and then the seeds are roasted and used like coffee.
Caution: They contain saponins and can be poisonous.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree. It grows up to 30 m high. It has a large stocky trunk. It has small buttresses. The branches are heavy. The leaves are twice divided and feather like. They are deep green and there are 24 pairs of small leaflets and 50 larger leaflets. The flowers are small and greenish white. They occur in heads 1.5 cm across. The fruit is an ear shaped pod. It is 10 cm across and flat and coiled. It has several seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is native to tropical America. It grows in dry, lowland forest and savannah. It can tolerate drought. It has some salt tolerance. In Costa Rica it grows from sea level to 1,300 m altitude. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is a fast growing tree. It takes 5 years before fruiting.

NOTES

There are 5 Enterolobium species. It is the emblem tree of Costa Rica.
Also as Mimosaceae.

PICTURES



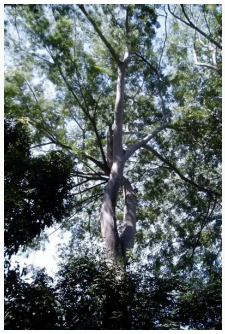
Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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