PLANT FACT SHEET

Delonix elata (L.) Gamble

GENUS *Delonix* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES White gold mohur

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds, Fruit, Vegetable

The young leaves are occasionally eaten as relish. They have a spicy taste.
The seeds are boiled and eaten during famine.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree. It grows 4-15 m high. It has a spreading arching habit. The bark is shiny and smooth and can be flaky. The young leaves are soft grey-green. The leaves are twice divided and feather like. There are 2-12 pairs of leaflets. They are oval and less than 1 cm long. The flowers are 20 cm across. They are white to pale orange. They have 4 wavy white petals and one smaller white petal. The stamens are long and orange-brown. Only one flower in a group opens at a time. The fruit are thin, red-brown pods. They taper at both ends. The pods are 20 cm long and remain on the tree.

HABITAT

They are tropical. It grows in the dry thorn bush savannah. It grows between 100-1,000 m altitude in East Africa. It grows in hot arid places. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings. It is often used as a live fence or hedge.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The leaves are collected at the beginning of the rainy season.

NOTES

There are 11 Delonix species. They are mostly in Madagascar. Also as Caesalpinaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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