PLANT FACT SHEET

Citrus australis (A. Cunn. ex Mudie) Planch.

GENUS *Citrus* **FAMILY** Rutaceae

COMMON NAMES Native lime, Australian round-lime, Gympie lime, Round lime

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The acid pulp of the fruit can be used to make drinks or marmalade.

DESCRIPTION

A tall shrub. They grow 9-18 m tall and spread 2-5 m across. It has a dense canopy of leaves. The branches are thorny. The leaves are 0.5-5.5 cm long by 0.5-3 cm wide. They are oval and leathery. They are dark green above and paler underneath. The edges are wavy towards the tip. The flowers are 1 cm across. They are white or pink and have a scent. They occur singly in the axils of leaves. Fruit are 2.5-8 cm across. They have rough greenish yellow skin. The pulp of the fruit is pale green. The skin is up to 7 mm thick.

HABITAT

It occurs naturally in south east Queensland in Australia. It grows in lowland subtropical rainforest. They need excellent drainage. They can tolerate light frosts.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. They can be grown from cuttings on a heat bed but rooting is slow and can take 6 months. They can be budded onto citrus rootstocks. Because the buds are small this takes some skill to be successful.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants are slow growing.

NOTES

There are 5 Microcitrus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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