PLANT FACT SHEET

Fraxinus excelsior L.

GENUS *Fraxinus* **FAMILY** Oleaceae

COMMON NAMES English Ash, Common ash, European ash

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Manna, Leaves - tea, Sap

The very young keys or winged fruit of the ash are pickled by steeping in salt water and vinegar then eaten as a condiment.
The leaves are sometimes added to tea. The leaves are also used for a fermented drink.
It is also the source of an edible manna.

DESCRIPTION

A large deciduous tree. It can grow 42 m high. The crown is broad. The bark is firm and ridged. The leaves are dark green. The leaves are made up of several leaflets. There are 9-11 narrow leaflets along the stalk. The leaflets are 5-8 cm long. They have teeth around the edge and turn yellow in autumn. The flower buds are velvety black. Male and female flowers often occur on the same tree on separate twigs. The fruit have a seedcase with wide wings enclosing it.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is native to Europe. It grows in moist woods and along riverbanks. It does well on lime rich soils. It suits hardiness zones 4-10. Arboretum Tasmania. Hobart Botanical Gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

They are fast growing.

NOTES

There are about 65 Fraxinus species. They are mostly temperate and subtropical.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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