PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Sapindus trifoliatus Linn.

GENUS *Sapindus* **FAMILY** Sapindaceae

COMMON NAMES Soap-nut tree of South India

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

CAUTION: The plants contain saponins.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree. The leaves are 15-30 cm long. They have 2-3 pairs of leaflets. These are 8-18 cm long by 5-8 cm wide. They are narrowly sword shaped. The fruit has 2-3 lobes. There is one seed in each cell. The seeds are black and 6-9 mm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows along the coast and in lowland areas in West Africa. It grows in mixed forests between 200-1,500 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In southern India plants flower and fruit December to April.

NOTES

The fruit are used for soap.

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