PLANT FACT SHEET

Terminalia arjuna (Roxb. ex DC.) Wight & Arn.

GENUS *Terminalia* **FAMILY** Combretaceae

COMMON NAMES Arjuna, Indian-laurel

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Bark - drink, seeds, Nuts, Seed

A decoction of the bark is mixed with milk to make a drink. The bark is cut into small pieces and dried. The seeds are also eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It can lose its leaves. It often has buttresses. The bark is smooth and grey. It flakes off in thin strips. It grows to 25 m tall and spreads to 4 m across. It has a dense matted fibrous root system. The stem is erect and branching. The branches and leaves hang over. The leaves are oval and broad. They are 8-15 cm long. They taper towards the tip and are green and glossy. There are a pair of glands near the leaf stalk. The flowers are greenish-white. They occur near the ends of branches and have a strong perfume. They are not easily seen. They are crowded on spikes 5-7 cm long in the axils of leaves. The fruit are large and round. They are woody and 6 cm long. They have 5 thin flat wings running along the side.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. This plant originally comes from India. It prefers well composted, well drained, moist soils. It requires an open sunny position. It is damaged by drought and frost. It often occurs in drier regions but near river banks.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. They can also be grown from root suckers, stumps and air-layering.

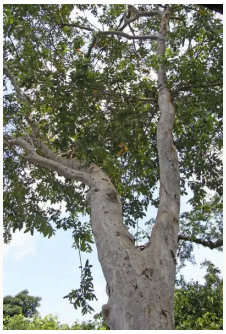
NOTES

There are about 200-250 Terminalia species. They are tropical. The fruit are used in medicine. It has anticancer properties.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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