PLANT FACT SHEET

Morus nigra L.

GENUS *Morus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Persian mulberry, Black mulberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The fruit are eaten. They can be eaten raw or preserved. They can be used for jams, jellies, and drinks. They fruit can be dried and stored.
The leaves are used for sarma in Turkey. They are rolled around a filling of rice or minced meat.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree. It is a medium sized tree which grows 10-12 m high. The trunk is short and then branches widely. It has an extensive root system. The bark is dark brown. The young branches are hairy. The leaf stalk is 1.5-2.5 cm long. The leaf blade is oval and 6-12 cm long by 7-11 cm wide. The flowers are small and greenish. The fruit is blackish purple when mature. It is 2-2.5 cm long by 1.5-2.5 cm wide.

HABITAT

It grows in temperate Asia. It will grow on most types of soils. The soils need to be well-drained. The black mulberry will grow in colder places than the white mulberry. In PNG it grows best between 800-2,200 m above sea level. Hobart Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 5-10. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed but such trees are very slow to grow and produce. It is grown by cuttings of 1-2 year old wood. Larger cuttings make faster growth. Cuttings are taken while trees are dormant in winter. Cuttings should be 1.5-2.5 cm across and 25-35 cm long. They need to be planted in sandy soil to half their depth. Grafted plants can also be used.

Harvesting and Seed Production

By putting a cloth under the tree and shaking the branches the fully ripe fruit fall.

NOTES

There are about 16 Morus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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