PLANT FACT SHEET

Caragana arborescens Lam.

GENUS *Caragana* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Siberian pea shrub, Siberian pea-tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Pods

The seeds are eaten cooked. They often need spices to add flavour.
The young green pods are cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 3.5-6 m high. It loses its leaves during the year. The leaves are soft and spineless. They are alternate and compound. There are 8-12 green leaflets. The central stalk is 4-8 cm long. The leaflets are oval and 12-25 mm long. There are small spines at the base of each leaf. The flowers are pale yellow and occur in loose clusters. They are pea like. They have slender stalks. The fruit is a pod. It is 4-5 cm long and swollen. It splits open with a twist when ripe. It contains many seeds.

HABITAT

It is a cool temperate plant. They do best in climates with cold winters and hot, dry summers. It is frost hardy. It can tolerate poor conditions. It can stand poor soil, salt and wind. In north China it grows between 1,000-1,900 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 2-9.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be cut back and allowed to regrow.

NOTES

There are 80 Caragana species. They grow in temperate continental climates.

REFERENCES

Bircher, A. G. & Bircher, W. H., 2000, Encyclopedia of Fruit Trees and Edible Flowering Plants in Egypt and the Subtropics. AUC Press. p 82

Brickell, C. (Ed.), 1999, The Royal Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants. Convent Garden Books. p 226

Cat. hort. Cremeneci 116. 1816 (As Caragana fruticosa)

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 328

Encycl. 1:615. 1785

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 180

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 103

Farrar, J.L., 1995, Trees of the Northern United States and Canada. Iowa State University press/Ames p 218

Hedrick, U.P., 1919, (Ed.), Sturtevant's edible plants of the world. p 160

ILDIS Legumes of the World http:www:ildis.org/Legume/Web

Kew Plants of the World Online

Jackes, D. A., Edible Forest Gardens

Plants for a Future database, The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0NG, UK. http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/ and (As Caragana fruticosa)

Self, M., 199, Phoenix Seeds catalogue. p 17

Urgamal, M., Oyuntsetseg, B., Nyambayar, D. & Dulamsuren, Ch. 2014. Conspectus of the vascular plants of Mongolia. (Editors: Sanchir, Ch. & Jamsran, Ts.). Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. "Admon" Press. 334pp. (p. 121-143).

Valder, P., 1999, The Garden Plants of China. Florilegium. p 269

Young, J., (Ed.), 2001, Botanica's Pocket Trees and Shrubs. Random House. p 195

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/2ba76676-e935-46f8-9c7c-2b0c05abffac