PLANT FACT SHEET

Cassia leiandra Benth.

GENUS *Cassia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Marimari

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Pod

The pulp of the pod is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 4-8 m tall. The crown is sparse. The trunk is twisted. It is 20-30 cm across. The leaves are compound and twice divided. Leaves are alternate and 20-30 cm long. There are 18-24 leaflets. They are 5-6 cm long by 1.7-2.2 cm wide. The flowers are at the ends of branches. Flower stalks are 25-45 cm long. They are very showy and yellow. The flower stalks are 3-5 cm long. The stamen have different forms with long ones forming an S shape. The fruit is a woody pod. It is 40-70 cm long by 2-3 cm wide. The seeds are in a juicy, bittersweet pulp.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the Amazon in Brazil. It grows naturally on flood plains. It is often near lagoons and canals.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The seeds are harvested and scratched to break the hard seed coat, then planted fresh. They germinate in 2-4 weeks.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow quickly.

NOTES

There are 100 Cassia species. This group has been revised to a smaller more consistent group. Also as Caesalpinaceae.

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