PLANT FACT SHEET

Carissa opaca Stapf ex Haines

GENUS *Carissa* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

COMMON NAMES Karonda

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Roots

The ripe fruit is eaten raw and also used for jams. The unripe fruit are used for pickles

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 3.5 m high. It keeps its leaves throughout the year. There are spines about 3 cm long. They can be straight or divided. The young shoots have milky sap. The leaves are opposite and oval or rounded. They are 1.5 cm long by 2 cm wide. Usually flowers are in threes. The fruit is an oval berry. It is 6-8 mm long. It is dark purple when ripe. It is juicy and edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the drier parts of India and Pakistan. It grows up into the Himalayas to 2,000 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Jammu & Kashmir plants flower and fruit June to December.

NOTES

There about 20-37 Carissa species. All Carissa species bear edible fruit. They grow in the tropics and subtropics.

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