PLANT FACT SHEET

Bagassa guianensis Aubl.

GENUS *Bagassa* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Cow-wood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Latex

The pulp of the fruit is eaten raw.
It is also used for drinks.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 15-45 m high. The crown is sparse. The trunk is upright and 40-80 cm across. It can have thick buttresses. The bark of soft but thick and fibrous. It yields white latex when cut. The leaves are simple and opposite. They have 3 main veins. The leaves can have 3 lobes when young. The leaves are 12-18 cm long by 8-14 cm wide. The leaf stalk is 4-6 cm long. Male and female flowers are separate. The male flowers are in 5 cm long spikes and the female flowers in round heads. The female heads occur singly. The fruit is round and a compound fruit. It is 4-5 cm long by 4 cm wide. It has fleshy, sweet pulp. There are several flat seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the Amazon in dryland forest. In the Guianas it grows in upland and mountain forest.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Ripe fruit are put into plastic bags to soften them then the seeds removed in a sieve under running water. They are dried in the shade for 24 hours. Seed are planted fresh. Seeds germinate in a few weeks.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow quickly.

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