PLANT FACT SHEET

Decaisnea insignis (Griff.) Hook. f. & Thomson

GENUS *Decaisnea* **FAMILY** Lardizabalaceae

COMMON NAMES Mao er shi

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An erect shrub. It can be 4-5 m high. The branches are robust and break easily. The leaf stalk is 10-20 cm long. The leaf blade is compound with leaflets along the stalk. The leaves are 30-80 cm long with 13-25 leaflets. These are oval and 6-14 cm long by 3-7 cm wide. The flowers are separately male and female. The fruit ripen to bluish-black and hang down. They are 5-10 cm long by 2 cm wide. The seeds are brown or black. They are about 1 cm long.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows in China in mixed forests on mountain slopes and wet areas between 900-3,600 m altitude. It needs a protected sunny position. It is resistant to frost but sensitive to drought. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from fresh seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In China plants flower in April to June and fruit July to August. In Sikkim fruit are available in October.

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