PLANT FACT SHEET

Spathodea campanulata P. Beauv

GENUS *Spathodea* **FAMILY** Bignoniaceae

COMMON NAMES African Tulip Tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Flowers

The seeds are eaten.
CAUTION: The fruit are boiled to extract juice used in arrow poison.
The flower buds have a sweet watery liquid used as a tonic.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 25-30 m high. The bark is light grey. It forms buttresses. Leaves are opposite. The branches are rather short. In moist climates it may keep its leaves and in dry climates it may shed its leaves for a short time. The leaves are compound and divided into an odd number of leaflets. There are 9-19 pairs + one. The leaflets are oval and sword shaped. They have a long point. They are 5-10 cm long by 4-8 cm wide. The flower buds are velvety brown. They are in cone like masses at the ends of branches. The flowers are large and scarlet red. The flowers are wide and bell shaped. The fruit is a long, pointed woody pod. It is 20 cm long. It contains many winged seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows naturally in tropical Africa. It has been spread to all parts of the tropics. In Nigeria it grows up to 900 m above sea level. In the Indian Himalayas it grows between 400-1,300 m above sea level. It grows in forest along river banks. It suits plant hardiness zones 11-12. In XTBG Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. It also forms suckers. It can be grown from softwood cuttings or suckers.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing.

NOTES

There is only one Spathodea species. It can be invasive.

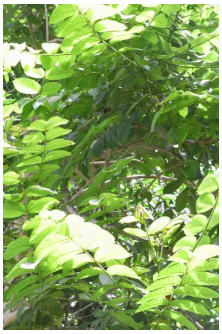
PICTURES



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

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