PLANT FACT SHEET

Sarcomphalus joazeiro (Mart.) Hauenschild.

GENUS *Sarcomphalus* **FAMILY** Rhamnaceae

COMMON NAMES Jujube, Joazeiro

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Flowers

The fruit are eaten fresh.

DESCRIPTION

A spiny tree. It grows 5-10 m high. The trunk is short and 30-50 cm across. The bark is grey and rough. The crown is round and dense. The stems and branches spread out horizontally. The leaves are thin and simple and rigid. The veins are easy to see on the top of the leaf. The leaves are 5-10 cm long and 3-6 cm wide. The flowers are small and yellow. The fruit are 2 cm across. They have 1 seed. The fruit is round and yellow and fleshy with a stone inside. The pulp is thick, sweet and fleshy. It is a non suckering plant and can therefore be used as a rootstock for Jujube.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in arid areas.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The plants are grow from seed. The ripe fruit are harvested. The seeds are removed from the fruit, washed in running water then dried in the shade. Seeds only stay viable for about 5 months. Seeds germinate in 70-100 days. The seedlings are transplanted into the field after 8-9 months.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow slowly. The grow 2 m tall in 2 years.

NOTES

The fruit are rich in Vitamin C.

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