PLANT FACT SHEET

Citrus aurantium L.

GENUS *Citrus* **FAMILY** Rutaceae

COMMON NAMES Seville orange

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - tea, Herb, Spice, Flowers - oil

The fruit is bitter, therefore mostly used for marmalade or flavouring.
The fruit are used for peel and for sherry and wine.
The tree is used as a rootstock for budding or grafting other citrus on to.
The oil from the flowers is used for flavouring.
The flowers are used for flavouring tea.
Immature fruit are pickled in salt or vinegar or fried in coconut oil.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree up to 10-15 m high and with slender thorns. It spreads to 5 m across. The stem is stout and erect. It is covered with smooth greyish-brown bark. The leaf stalks have broad wings. The leaves are glossy green, oval and 10 cm long. The leaves taper towards the base and are paler under the leaf. There are spines in the axils of the leaves. The flowers are white and have a sweet smell. They are 2 cm across and there can be 1, 2 or a cluster, in the axils of leaves. The fruit is often green with a reddish tinge and fairly juicy but sour. The fruit are 5-7 cm long. The fruit is often rough skinned. The flesh is divided into segments with sour pulp.

HABITAT

A tropical and subtropical plant. Mostly in coastal areas in the tropics. It is drought and frost resistant. It does best in a protected sunny position. It must have a temperature above 3-5°C to grow. It suits hardiness zones 9-11.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is mostly grown from seeds. It can also be grown by cuttings and layering. The seeds often produce several shoots. Plants can be grown by grafting.

NOTES

This plant is mostly used as rootstock for other citrus. There are 20 Citrus species. Several hybrids have been formed.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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