PLANT FACT SHEET

Citrus limon (L.) Burm. f

GENUS *Citrus* **FAMILY** Rutaceae

COMMON NAMES Lemon

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Herb, Spice, Flowers

The fruit is mostly too sour to eat fresh but the juice is used to make drinks. The juice is used in tea, ice cream, sauces, salads, salad dressings and marinades. It can be a coagulant in cheese making.
The peel is used as seasoning in chocolate. The peel is candied in syrup. The inner parts of the peel and pulp are used for low-methoxyl pectins used for sugarless fruit jams and jellies.
The dried leaves are added to teas for flavouring. The flowers are eaten in ice cream, fritters and jams.
Caution: Large doses can erode teeth enamel and cause dermatitis.

DESCRIPTION

A small evergreen tree with short spines. It grows to 7 m high and spreads to 3 m across. It branches freely. Young branches are often reddish. Leaves are about 5-12 cm long. They are green and drawn out to a point, with notched edges. The leaf stalk is usually not winged. The leaves do not have much of a scent. The flowers are white, with 5 petals and have a strong sweet smell. They are 4-5 cm across. The fruit is oval shaped and with a knob at the end. Fruit can be 7-15 cm long. The skin is fairly thin, rough and light yellow. The flesh is sour and the seeds are oval.

HABITAT

A subtropical plant. Trees do not do well on the coast in the tropics but they grow well at about 1300 m and will grow up to 2200 m altitude in Papua New Guinea. They prefer a light to medium, well drained soil. They are drought resistant but most varieties are frost tender. They need a temperature above 3-5°C for growth. They suit warm temperate regions. In Brisbane Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 9-11.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Many trees are seedlings. Better trees are grafted.

NOTES

There are 20 Citrus species. Several hybrids have been formed.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

AAK, 1994, Jeruk, Penerbit Kanisius, Jogyakarta. p 198

Abbiw, D.K., 1990, Useful Plants of Ghana. West African uses of wild and cultivated plants. Intermediate Technology Publications and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. p 42

Ambasta, S.P. (Ed.), 2000, The Useful Plants of India. CSIR India. p 128

Andrare, G. M. M., et al, 2023, Plantas Alimenticias Nao Convencionais (PANC) Nos Levantamentos Etnobotanicos do Brazil. Novos Cadernos NAEA v. 25 No. 2 p 220

Ashton, M. S., et al 1997, A Field Guide to the Common Trees and Shrubs of Sri Lanka. WHT Publications Ltd. pdf p 345

Baishya, S. Kr., et al, 2013, Survey of Wild Edible Fruits of Dhubri District, Assam, India. Plant Archives Vol 13 (1): 155-158

Barwick, M., 2004, Tropical and Subtropical Trees. A Worldwide Encyclopedic Guide. Thames and Hudson p 117

Bernal, R., et al, (Eds), 2016, Catalogo de Plantas y Liquenes de Colombia, Volumen 2, Magnoliaceae a Zygophyllaceae. Universidad Nacional de Colombia. p 2558

Bernholt, H. et al, 2009, Plant species richness and diversity in urban and peri-urban gardens of Niamey, Niger. Agroforestry Systems 77:159-179

Bianchini, F., Corbetta, F., and Pistoia, M., 1975, Fruits of the Earth. Cassell. p 184

Blamey, M and Grey-Wilson, C., 2005, Wild flowers of the Mediterranean. A & C Black London. p 123

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 261

Bourret, D., 1981, Bonnes-Plantes de Nouvelle-Caledonie et des Loyaute. ORSTOM. p 29

Brickell, C. (Ed.), 1999, The Royal Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants. Convent Garden Books. p 272

Brouk, B., 1975, Plants Consumed by Man. Academic Press, London. p 307

Brown, D., 2002, The Royal Horticultural Society encyclopedia of Herbs and their uses. DK Books. p 172

Burkill, H. M., 1985, The useful plants of west tropical Africa, Vol. 4. Kew.

Burkill, I.H., 1966, A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Vol 1 (A-H) p 575

Bussman, R. W., et al, 2016, A comparative ethnobotany of Khevsureti, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Tusheti, Svaneti, and Racha-Lechkhumi, Republic of Georgia (Sakartvelo), Caucasus. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine.

Bussman, R. W. et al, 2017, Ethnobotany of Samtskhe-Javakheti, Sakartvelo (Republic of Georgia), Caucasus. Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge Vol. 16(1) pp 7-24

Bussman, R. W., et al, 2021, Unity in diversity–food plants and fungi of Sakartvelo (Republic of Georgia), Caucasus. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine (2021) 17:72 p 14

Call, C. A., et al, 2004, Participatory Rural Appraisal in the Upland Ecosystem of Mt Malindang, Misamis Occidental, Philippines. Biodiversity Research Programme for Development in Mindanao. p 60

Cameron, J.W. & Soost, R.K., 1979, Citrus, in Simmonds, N.W., (ed), Crop Plant Evolution. Longmans. London. p 261

Chandrashekara, U. M., 2009, Tree species yielding edible fruit in the coffee-based homegardens of Kerala, India: their diversity, uses and management. Food Sec. 1:361-370

Catarino, L., et al, 2016, Ecological data in support of an analysis of Guinea-Bissau's medicinal flora. Data in Brief 7 (2016):1078-1097

Cheifetz, A., (ed), 1999, 500 popular vegetables, herbs, fruits and nuts for Australian Gardeners. Random House p 180

Chin, H.F., & Yong, H.S., 1996, Malaysian Fruits in Colour. Tropical press, Kuala Lumpur p 51

Clarke, W.C. & Thaman, R.R., 1993, Agroforestry in the Pacific Islands: Systems for sustainability. United Nations University Press. New York. p 230

Cobley, L.S. (rev. Steele, W.M.) 2nd Ed., 1976, An Introduction to the Botany of Tropical Crops. Longmans. p 166

Coronel, R.E., 1982, Fruit Collections in the Philippines. IBPGR Newsletter p 6

Cribb, A.B. & J.W., 1976, Wild Food in Australia, Fontana. p 25

Cruz, I. M., et al, 2015, Edible fruits and seeds in the State of Mexico. Revista Mexicana de Ciencias Agricolas. Vol. 6. Num. 2 pp 331-346

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 384

D'Ambrosio, U., & Puri, R. K., 2016, Foodways in transition: food plants, diet and local perceptions of change in a Costa Rican Ngäbe community. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine (2016) 12:3 p 27

Das, T. & Das, A. K., 2005, Inventorying plant biodiversity in homegardens: A case study in Barak Valley, Assam, North East India. CURRENT SCIENCE, VOL. 89, NO. 1, 10 JULY 2005

Elevitch, C.R.(ed.), 2006, Traditional Trees of the Pacific Islands: Their Culture, Environment and Use. Permanent Agriculture Resources, Holualoa, Hawaii. p 245

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 215

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 217

Fl. indica 173. 1768

Flora of Pakistan. www.eFloras.org

Fowler, D. G., 2007, Zambian Plants: Their Vernacular Names and Uses. Kew. p 59

Full reference list (67 more) at https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/3a49957e-2a26-46bf-ac9d-1959eae19daf

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/3a49957e-2a26-46bf-ac9d-1959eae19daf