PLANT FACT SHEET

Carissa spinarum L.

GENUS *Carissa* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

COMMON NAMES Simple-spined num-num

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Spice

The ripe fruit can be eaten raw or used for tarts. They are also used for juice.
The unripe fruit are used in pickles.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub. It grows 5 m tall. It is thorny. It can be climbing. The leaves are narrowly oval and leathery and have soft hairs. The flowers are white and have a scent. They are in groups at the ends of branches. The fruit are red berries. They are about 1 cm across.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in dry regions. It can grow in arid places. It grows in south India. In the Himalayas it grows up to 6,000 m above sea level. It occurs in the Western Ghats in India. Rajasthan. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings. It is a good hedge plant.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It flowers throughout the year.

NOTES

There about 20-37 Carissa species. All Carissa species bear edible fruit. They grow in the tropics and subtropics. Leeuwenberg has put many Carissa into Carissa spinarum. This is not necessarily accepted.

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