PLANT FACT SHEET

Carissa carandas L.

GENUS *Carissa* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

COMMON NAMES Ceylon damson, Sri Lankan damson

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Flowers

Ripe fruit are eaten raw and unripe fruit are also used for pickles. Ripe fruit are used for juices, salads and jams. The fruit are eaten with salt.
The unripe fruit are used for pickles.

DESCRIPTION

A large shrub. It grows 5 m tall. It has stout spines in pairs. They are 5 cm long. The leaves are oblong with distinct veins. They are 3-7 cm long by 2-4 cm wide. There are usually 3 flowers at the ends of the branches. The flowers have a scent. The fruit are red to purple berries. They are oval and 1.5-2.5 cm long by 1-2 cm wide.

HABITAT

It is a temperate or subtropical plant. It suits drier areas. It grows in lowland rainforest between 300-1,800 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or by cuttings. It can be grown as a hedge.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In China plants flower from March to June and fruit from July to December. A tree can produce 10 kg of fruit.

NOTES

Now an accepted name. There has been confusion with Carissa congesta (Now Carissa spinarum)

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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

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