PLANT FACT SHEET

Crateva magna (Lour.) DC.

GENUS *Crateva* **FAMILY** Capparaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Fruit, Leaves

The flowers and fruit are edible after a long processing being squashed in vinegar.
The young leaves and flowers are pickled.
The fruit is occasionally eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tree which loses its leaves for a short time. It grows 6-20 m high. The leaves have 3 leaflets. The leaflets are narrowly oval and 15-20 cm long. They taper to the tips. The leaf stalks are 7-10 cm long. The flower petals are white when young but turn cream to pink. They are broadly oval and 15 cm long. The stamens are purple and wiry. They are 10-13 cm long. The fruit are round and ash-coloured. The fruit stalk is 5-8 cm long. The seeds are hard, dark brown and 0.5 cm across. They are in a yellow pulp.

Caution: Records confused. They are probably now all Crateva religiosa.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It needs a fertile, well-drained soil. It grows on river banks and around rice paddies. It can survive occasional flooding. It needs full sun. It grows in low hills up to 600 m altitude in shady situations near streams in India. It can tolerate drought and suits dry areas but is sensitive to frost when young. It suits plant hardiness zones 10-12. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. Seed can take many months to germinate. Seedlings can be transplanted. Plants can also be grown from root suckers.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Growth is slow.

NOTES

There are 6 Crateva species. The bark and leaves are used in medicine.

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