PLANT FACT SHEET

Phoenix loureiroi var. pedunculata (Griff.) Govaerts.

GENUS *Phoenix* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Dwarf date palm, Hill date palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Bud, Cabbage, Palm heart

The bud is eaten as a palm cabbage.
The ripe fruit can be eaten fresh.
The pith from the young stem is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A dwarf palm tree. It has several trunks 10-20 cm tall. In sandy soils is is almost without a trunk but in rocky soils the trunk can be 2 m tall. It is a slender palm. The trunk has distinct square markings on it. This is produced from where the leaves have fallen. These leaf bases are arranged in a loose spiral. The leaves arch over. They are short and 1-2 m long. The leaflets are 50 cm long and narrow. They are grey-green. They are arranged in groups of up to 4 along the stalk. The fruit occur in long clusters. The fruit are 1.5-2 cm long and ripen from orange to black. They are sweet and edible. The variety pedunculata comes from 2000 m altitude and has very long fruit stalks.

HABITAT

A tropical and subtropical plant. It grows in grassy savannah. It can grow in low coastal plains and mountains. It grows between 300-1800 m altitude in Uttar Pradesh in India. It grows in isolated hill districts in India.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

NOTES

There are 17 Phoenix species.

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