PLANT FACT SHEET

Toona sinensis (A. Juss.) M. Roem.

GENUS *Toona* **FAMILY** Meliaceae

COMMON NAMES Chinese cedar

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Buds, Leaves - tea, Vegetable

Young leaves are eaten. They are boiled, mixed with vinegar and eaten with rice. They are also pickled.
The leaves are eaten as a tea substitute.
The young buds are blanched and eaten as a vegetable.
Salted leaves are eaten cold with sesame oil and fresh bean curd.
The fruit are edible.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree. It grows 20-30 m tall. The trunk is 60-100 cm across. The trunk is straight with few branches. The leaves are 60 cm long. There are 10-24 leaflets along the stalks. The leaves have teeth along the edge. The leaflets are red-bronze when young and turn yellow before they fall. The flowers are cream and small. They have a scent. They occur in drooping panicles. These are 30 cm long. The fruit is a woody brown capsule. It is 3 cm long. There are several winged seeds.

HABITAT

A subtropical plant. It is native to China. It grows on mountains between 800 and 2,000 m altitude. It suits subtropical and temperate climates. It needs deep loamy-sandy soil. It suits a pH of 5.5-8 and does well on calcareous soils. It suits hardiness zones 6-11. In Yunnan. In Sichuan. National Arboretum Canberra.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. Seeds need extensive cold treatment for 2-3 months. Then they are soaked in warm water for 24 hours before sowing. They are best grown in a nursery and then transplanted. They can be grown by root cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees grow quickly. Leaves are continually harvested.

NOTES

There are 4 or 5 Toona species. They occur in Asia. Now Cedrela is an American genus and Toona is Asia and elsewhere. Chemical composition: Protein = 5.97%. Fat = 1.02%. Carbohydrate = 6.57%. Ash = 1.48%. Vitamin A = large quantities. Vitamin C = trace.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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