PLANT FACT SHEET

Cochlospermum fraseri Planch.

GENUS *Cochlospermum* **FAMILY** Bixaceae

COMMON NAMES Kapok bush flowers, Yellow flowered kapok

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root, Flowers, Gum

The fattened roots or tubers of young plants are eaten.
Flowers are eaten raw or cooked.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows up to 6 m high. It loses its leaves during the year. The leaves have 2 lobes at the base. The blade is 5-10 cm long by 7-15 cm wide. It has 3-7 broad lobes which vary in shape. The edges of the leaf have shallow teeth. The leaf stalk is 6-13 cm long. The flowers are large and yellow. They are 5.5-8 cm across. They occur at the ends of branches in bunches 30 cm long. The fruit is a smooth long woody capsule. It is 5.5-8 cm long by 3.5-4 cm wide. It is brown and splits when ripe. There are many seeds which are kidney shaped. These are amongst a mass of cotton fibres.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows as an understorey plant in open forest. It needs well-drained soil. It grows in the tropics in Australia. It suits hardiness zones 10-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed. Seed take 1-3 months to germinate. They can also be grown from tubers. Tubers produce a number of shoots.

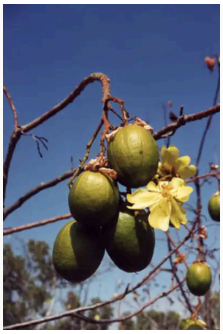
NOTES

There are about 12 Cochlospermum species.
Also put in the family Cochlospermaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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