PLANT FACT SHEET

Hancornia speciosa Gomez

GENUS *Hancornia* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

COMMON NAMES Mangaba

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Latex

The ripe fruit is eaten fresh. They are also made into juice, preserves, drinks, pudding and wine. It is made into marmalade and ice cream.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized tree. It grows 6-8 m high. It can be 15 m high. The trunk is twisted and 30 cm across. The leaves are simple and opposite. They are 3.5-10 cm long by 1.5-5 cm wide. The fruit is medium sized and red with a thin skin. It is 2.5-6 cm long. It has sweet flesh and one or more seeds. The seed are 1 cm across. The plant is variable and 6 varieties have been described.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in scrubland in central Brazil. It grows naturally in regions with average temperatures between 24-26°C. The rainfall is 1,400 mm per year. It can grow in the temperature range of 15-43°C. It grows in sandy soils.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The seeds from ripe fruit are removed and dried in the shade then planted. Seeds are slow to germinate and only a few grow. It is best to use fresh seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow slowly. Fruit are best when harvested from the ground. Plants fruit 5-6 years after planting. Fruit ripen after 112 days.

NOTES

There is only one Hancornia species. It has antioxidant activity. It is rich in Vitamin C and folates.

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NYBG Herbarium "edible"

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