PLANT FACT SHEET

Bauhinia monandra Kurz.

GENUS *Bauhinia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Butterfly Flower

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Flowers

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree. It grows to 7 m tall and spreads to 4 m across. The stem is slender and erect. It often forms several stems. It has widely spreading branches. The leaves have 2 lobes and are yellowish-green. The flowers are pale pink with red dots and have 5 petals and one fertile stamen. Flowers are usually of one sex. They are orchid like and are 10 cm across. They occur around stalks on the end of branches. The flowers only have one stamen. Pods are 20 cm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It prefers a well composted, moist, well drained soil. It grows in areas with a rainfall between 900-2,000 mm per year. It does best in a protected sunny position. It is drought and frost tender. It suits hardiness zones 11-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seed should be treated before sowing. It can be grown by air-layering or grafting.

NOTES

It is normally grown in gardens as an ornamental. There are about 250-350 Bauhinia species. Most are in the tropics. Also as Caesalpinaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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