PLANT FACT SHEET

Thespesia populneoides (Roxb.) Kostel.

GENUS *Thespesia* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Beach yellow Hibiscus, Northern Cottonwood, Pacific rosewood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Leaves, Fruit, Buds

The leaves, flowers and buds are eaten raw or cooked.
The fruit are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It has several stems. It is 5-6 m high. The leaves are alternate and smooth. They are heart-shaped. The blade is 6-13.5 cm long by 7.5-13 cm wide. The leaf is dark green on the upper surface and has rust coloured scales on a paler green underneath. The leaf stalk is 10 cm long. The flowers are large and yellow. They have a purple centre. The flower is 7 cm across by 10 cm long. They occur singly on long stalks in the axils of leaves. The fruit are smooth round leathery or woody capsules. They are 3-4.5 cm across. They are brown when ripe. They contain several small round seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows naturally on stabilised sand dunes near the beach. It can grow in sand or in heavy wet swampy clays.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings.

NOTES

This plant has been confused with Thespesia populnea. This one has different shaped leaf bases and fruit stalks which are short and bend. See Wheeler p 232

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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