PLANT FACT SHEET

Nannorrhops ritchiana (Griff.) Aitch.

GENUS *Nannorrhops* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Mazari palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Fruit, Leaves, seeds, Nuts, Palm heart, Cabbage

The very young leaves are eaten as a vegetable.
The flesh of the fruit is eaten raw.
The flowers are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A palm with branching trunks. These can be underground or above ground. This means the palm forms clumps. The trunk can extend 5 m above ground. The leaves are tough and fan shaped. They are grey-green. There is a flower at the end of the branches. This flowering stalk can be 2 m long. As the fruit matures, this branch dies back to the next branch. Therefore each branch only flowers once. Each trunk is thick and densely covered with old leaf bases. These carry orange wool. Single plants can produce fruit. The seeds are round and pea sized.

HABITAT

It grows naturally in desert areas. It grows on infertile stony soils. In the mountains the palms can be covered with snow for extended periods. It is hardy and very cold tolerant. It requires a sunny position. It can be grown in tropical and subtropical places. It grows naturally in the deserts and hills of Pakistan and in the mountains of Afghanistan. It can grow in arid places. In Townsville palmetum.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The seed should be soaked in water then planted. They germinate quite easily. They do not transplant easily. Clumps can be divided but plants can be slow to establish.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants are very slow growing.

NOTES

There is only one Nannorrhops species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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