PLANT FACT SHEET

Myroxylon balsamum var. pereirae (Royle) Harms

GENUS *Myroxylon* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Balsam of Peru

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Resin, Gum, Seeds, Flavouring

The resin provides a hot spicy flavouring used in chewing gum, ice cream, baked goods and other foods. The seeds are used to add a bitter flavour to drinks.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 34 m high. The trunk is 1 m across. The bark is grey and spotted with rough yellow areas. The leaves have leaflets along the stalk and one at the end. There are 3-11 leaflets that are 6-9 cm long and 3-4 cm wide. They have oil dots. The flowers are white.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows from sea level up to 700 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. Seeds germinate in 15-30 days.

NOTES

It is used in medicine and cosmetics.

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