PLANT FACT SHEET

Sapindus mukorossi Gaertn.

GENUS *Sapindus* **FAMILY** Sapindaceae

COMMON NAMES Soap-nut tree of North India, Chinese soapberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds

CAUTION: The plants contain saponins. The seeds are poisonous.
The seed kernels are put under running water for about a week and then dried and made into flour for bread. The seeds are crushed and boiled to make a liquid which is added to milk sweets which gives a frothy quality to the dessert.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree. It grows 10-20 m high. The leaves are 40 cm long. There are 5-8 pairs of leaflets. The leaflets are 15 cm long. The leaf stalk has slight wings. The flowers are small and white and occur in large panicles. The fruit are smooth and yellow to orange and 2 cm across. They have a slight keel.

HABITAT

A subtropical plant. It is native from India to Japan. It suits hardiness zones 8-11.

NOTES

The nuts are used in medicine. The fruit are used as soap. The seeds are used as beads.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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