PLANT FACT SHEET

Kalopanax septemlobus (Thunb. ex A. Murray) Koidz.

GENUS *Kalopanax* **FAMILY** Araliaceae

COMMON NAMES Tree aralia, Castor aralia, Spiny panax

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Flowers

The young stems and leaves can be eaten fresh or stir fried.

DESCRIPTION

A tree up to 18-30 m high. It loses its leaves during the year. The crown is round. It has scattered stout prickles on the trunk. The leaves are large and lobed like fingers on a hand. There are 5-7 lobes. These are pointed and have fine teeth along the edge. The leaves are on long stalks. The leaves are dark green above and paler underneath. The flowers are small and white in round heads. The fruit are bluish-black berries. These are in clusters.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows in forests from near sea level to 2500 m altitude in China. It grows in Yunnan. It needs deep, moist, fertile soil. It can grow in sun or light shade. It suits hardiness zones 5-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed or half hard cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 20 Acanthopanax species. They are deciduous trees from temperate Asia.

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