PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Planchonia careya* (F. Muell.) R Kunth

**GENUS** *Planchonia* **FAMILY** Lecythidaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Cocky Apple, Billygoat Plum, Cockatoo apple, Wild Quince

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Fruit, Seeds, bud

The fruit is eaten raw or roasted. They are eaten when the juice in them is yellow. The skin and pulp fibres are discarded.

## DESCRIPTION

A tree which loses its leaves during the year. It grows 4-15 m high and spreads 2-5 m wide. The bark is grey and corky. The leaves are simple and 2-10 cm long by 3-6 cm wide. The leaves are broadly oval or spoon shaped. They are smooth and shiny above but dull underneath. The leaves turn red colour before they fall. The flowers are 8 cm across. They are pink and white and showy. The fruit is 50 mm long by 35 mm wide. They can be larger. They occur singly or in bunches. The fruit are produced in the axils of leaves or at the ends of branches. They contain several seeds. The seeds are 10-11 mm long by 7 mm wide. The flesh is edible.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in rainforest and open forest in tropical regions. It can also grow in seasonally dry regions and in subtropical places. It needs very good drainage. It does best in a sunny location. It also grows in sand plains behind beaches.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown from fresh seed. The seed need to be treated to break the hard seed coat before planting. They can be grown by cuttings.

## NOTES

There are about 14 Plachonia species. They grow in the Asian tropics.

## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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