PLANT FACT SHEET

Inga macrophylla Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd.

GENUS *Inga* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Bigleaf inga

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit - aril, pod

The aril of layer around the seeds is sweet and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 4-14 m high. The crown is dense and rounded. The young branches are angular. The trunk is short and 20-35 cm across. The leaves are compound. There are 3-4 pairs of leaflets. The flowers are in crowded groups in the axils of leaves. The fruit is a flattened pod that is angular. It is 20-45 cm long by 3-5 cm wide and 1-1.5 cm thick. The pods contain 15-30 seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the humid lowlands and up to 1,100 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. Seeds are collected from ripe pods. The layer around the seeds is removed before planting. Seeds should be planted fresh. They are best in light shade. Seedlings emerge in 10-20 days.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grown rapidly. A mature tree can produce 100-150 fruit in a season.

NOTES

There are 350 Inga species. Also as Mimosaceae.

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