PLANT FACT SHEET

Cordia myxa L.

GENUS *Cordia* **FAMILY** Boraginaceae

COMMON NAMES Assyrian Plum, Sebastan tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Nuts, Leaves, Fruit, Flowers

The leaves are boiled in water then mixed with salt and chilli peppers. The flowers are also eaten.
The ripe fruit are eaten. They are mixed with honey to make a sweetmeat.
The seed kernels are eaten. They are also used for a drink.
The young tender fruit are eaten as a vegetable. They are also pickled. They can be dried and stored.

DESCRIPTION

A shrubby evergreen tree. It grows to 12 m high. The trunk can be 1-1.5 m wide. The leaves are broad and pointed and have teeth along the edges. The male and female flowers are white or cream and in loose panicles at the ends of branches. The fruit are small and nutlike. They are yellow, orange-pink or black. It has sweet, sticky flesh.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows on rocky soils. It grows in dry to moist deciduous forests between 200-1,500 m above sea level. It can grow in deserts and arid conditions. It suits hardiness zones 11-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. Seeds are soaked in cold water for 6 hours before planting and then germinate in 40-60 days. Seedlings in a nursery can be planted out after 4-6 months. It can also be grown by stem cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fairly fast growing. It starts flowering when 3-5 years old. It flowers and fruits all year round. Fruit ripen in 30-45 days. A tree can produce 20 kg of fruit is a year.

NOTES

There are about 300 Cordia species.

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