PLANT FACT SHEET

Diospyros lotus L.

GENUS *Diospyros* **FAMILY** Ebenaceae

COMMON NAMES Lotus persimmon, Date plum, Dateplum persimmon

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw or preserved and used in wine and vinegar. The fruit are astringent and usually need special treatment.
They need to be very ripe.
The fruit can be dried.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree. It grows up to 15-30 m tall. It can spread to 8 m wide. The bark is furrowed. Young twigs are hairy. The leaf blade is oval and 5-13 cm long by 2.5-6 cm wide. The flowers are reddish or greenish-white. They are bell shaped. The male flowers are in clusters of 2-3 and the female flowers usually occur singly. The fruit are brown or yellow berries. They turn dark purple when ripe. They are 2 cm across.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is native to S.W. Asia and Northern Iran. It grows between 500-2500 m altitude in southern China. They grow between 1,180-2,000 m altitude in Kashmir. It is very cold hardy. It does not tolerate acidic soils. It suits hardiness zones 5-9. In Sichuan and Yunnan. Arboretum Tasmania. National Arboretum Canberra.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. They can also be grafted.

NOTES

There are about 485 species of Diospyros mostly in the tropics.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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