



PLANT FACT SHEET

Erythrina poeppigiana (Walpers) O. F. Cook

GENUS *Erythrina* FAMILY Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Madre de Cacao

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Flowers

The flowers are used in soups and salads.

Caution: The seeds are probably poisonous.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It loses its leaves during the year. It grows 30 m tall. The branches have prickles and the trunk has lumps. The leaves are alternate and compound. They have 3 leaflets each 20 cm long. They are broad with a pointed tip. The flowers are 4-5 cm long. They are shaped like pea flowers. They are orange to red. The fruit is a pod. It is 10-25 cm long. The seeds are brown.

HABITAT

It is common in tropical America. It is a native of the Andes in Peru. It grows in the humid lowlands and up to 2,000 m above sea level. At ECHO.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds and also by cuttings.

NOTES

There are 108 *Erythrina* species. It is used as shade for cacao and coffee plantations.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET <https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/6b9e9173-2911-4f1f-b44b-f4fe13e2929f>