PLANT FACT SHEET

Machilus edulis King ex Hook.f.

GENUS *Machilus* **FAMILY** Lauraceae

COMMON NAMES Pumsi

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw. The ripe fruit are allowed to become fully ripe or 'cure' for a few days in hot dry conditions. The flesh is scooped out and eaten. It is added to rice.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows 15-20 m high. The trunk is straight. The branches are spreading. The bark is dark brown in forests and lighter in open spaces. The leaves are sword shaped with a short leaf stalk. Fruit are about 4-5 cm across.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. In Sikkim the trees are mostly above 1,700 m altitude. They are common between 1,600-1,900 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. Seeds germinate in 45-70 days. They cannot be grown from cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Yields can be 5-75 kg per tree. A fruit weighs about 32 g. The fruit are picked and stored in a warm, dark, non-airy enclosure for curing. This improves the flavour. In Sikkim fruit are available January to March.

NOTES

There are about 200 Machilus species. The fruit are nutritious.

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