PLANT FACT SHEET

Asimina triloba (L.) Dunal

GENUS *Asimina* **FAMILY** Annonaceae

COMMON NAMES Asimoya, Custard apple, Pawpaw

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit have the consistency of a custard and are eaten.
They are also used for preserves, ice cream, cakes and sweet desserts.
Caution: The seeds are toxic. Some people are allergic to this fruit.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized tree. It grows to 8-15 m tall. It has straight spreading branches. It loses its leaves during the year. The leaves are narrow and oval. They are up to 25 cm long. They are widest above the middle. The upper surface is green and they are more pale underneath. The flowers are deep red-brown. They are 5 cm long and hang down. They are carried in clusters of 2-5 flowers. The fruit is black-brown. They are elongated. They are 5-15 cm long. The fruit are edible. They have soft orange flesh. The seeds are small, long, hard and black. There are several named cultivated varieties.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is native to North America. It prefers rich soil. It is best with some shade. It will tolerate reasonable frost. It needs a growing season of 6-8 months but then can tolerate temperatures. It suits hardiness zones 5-10. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

They are grown from seed. They seed need cold treatment before they will grow. Plants do not transplant easily because of the deep taproot.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees are fairly slow growing. Plants commence after about 5 years. The fruit need to be very ripe before eating. They take 4-5 months to mature after fruit set. Trees can produce 50-100 fruit per tree each year. Fruit only store for 2-3 days at room temperature but for 3 weeks with refrigeration.

NOTES

There are 7 or 8 Asimina species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Beckstrom-Sternberg, Stephen M., and James A. Duke. "The Foodplant Database." http://probe.nalusda.gov:8300/cgi-bin/browse/foodplantdb. (ACEDB version 4.0 - data version July 1994)

Bircher, A. G. & Bircher, W. H., 2000, Encyclopedia of Fruit Trees and Edible Flowering Plants in Egypt and the Subtropics. AUC Press. p 44

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 107

Brickell, C. (Ed.), 1999, The Royal Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants. Convent Garden Books. p 145

Coombes, A.J., 2000, Trees. Dorling Kindersley Handbooks. p 107

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 196

Duke, J.A., 1992, Handbook of Edible Weeds. CRC Press. p 42

Elias, T.S. & Dykeman P.A., 1990, Edible Wild Plants. A North American Field guide. Sterling, New York p 198

Esperanca, M. J., 1988. Surviving in the wild. A glance at the wild plants and their uses. Vol. 2. p 128

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 106

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 13

Farrar, J.L., 1995, Trees of the Northern United States and Canada. Iowa State University press/Ames p 398

Flowerdew, B., 2000, Complete Fruit Book. Kyle Cathie Ltd., London. p 188

Gouldstone, S., 1978, Australian and New Zealand Guide to food bearing plants. Books for Pleasure. p 37

Grandtner, M. M., 2008, World Dictionary of Trees. Wood and Forest Science Department. Laval University, Quebec, Qc Canada. (Internet database http://www.WDT.QC.ca)

Hedrick, U.P., 1919, (Ed.), Sturtevant's edible plants of the world. p 79

Heywood, V.H., Brummitt, R.K., Culham, A., and Seberg, O. 2007, Flowering Plant Families of the World. Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew. p 34

Hibbert, M., 2002, The Aussie Plant Finder 2002, Florilegium. p 34

Jackes, D. A., Edible Forest Gardens

Janick, J. & Paul, R. E. (Eds.), 2008, The Encyclopedia of Fruit & Nuts. CABI p 62

John, L., & Stevenson, V., 1979, The Complete Book of Fruit. Angus & Robertson p 290

Kermath, B. M., et al, 2018, Food Plants in the Americas: A survey of the domesticated, cultivated and wild plants used for Human food in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. p 126

Kiple, K.F. & Ornelas, K.C., (eds), 2000, The Cambridge World History of Food. CUP p 1828

Little, E.L., 1980, National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees. Alfred A. Knopf. p 447

Lyle, S., 2006, Discovering fruit and nuts. Land Links. p 82

MacKinnon, A., et al, 2009, Edible & Medicinal Plants of Canada. Lone Pine. p 101

Medsger, O. P., 1939, Edible Wild Plants. Macmillan Company. p 9

Monog. Anonac. 83. 1817

Phillips, R. & Rix, M., 2002, The Botanical Garden Vol. 1. Trees and Shrubs. MacMillan. p 65

Plants for a Future database, The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0NG, UK. http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/

Ryan, S., 2008, Dicksonia. Rare Plants Manual. Hyland House. p 8

Saunders, C.F., 1948, Edible and Useful Wild Plants. Dover. New York. p 100

Self, M., 199, Phoenix Seeds catalogue. p 15

Toupal, R. S. & Hollenback, K., 2009, An Ethnobotany of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore: Plant Uses of the Ojibwa People. Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology. University of Arizona

Tozer, F., 2007, The Uses of Wild Plants. Green Man Publishing. p 41

USDA, ARS, National Genetic Resources Program. Germplasm Resources Information Network - (GRIN). [Online Database] National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland. Available: www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/econ.pl (10 April 2000)

Wiersema, J. H. & Leon, B., 2013, World Economic Plants. A Standard Reference CRC Press. 2nd Ed. p 74

Wild Edible Plants of the Whitmire Wildflower Garden. Missouri Botanical Gardens.

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/treedb/

Young, J., (Ed.), 2001, Botanica's Pocket Trees and Shrubs. Random House. p 110

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/6e0c6777-3e60-45bf-8113-e81aa1a44ca0