PLANT FACT SHEET

Parmentiera aculeata (Kunth) Seem.

GENUS *Parmentiera* **FAMILY** Bignoniaceae

COMMON NAMES Food candle tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Spice

The ripe fruit are eaten raw, cooked by boiling or roasted, and preserved or pickled.
They are chewed like sugarcane.

DESCRIPTION

A small evergreen tree. It grows 5-10 m high. It has a spreading crown. The trunk can be 8 cm across. The leaf stalks have narrow wings. The leaves are in rings on short spiny twigs. The leaves have 1-4 leaflets. They are 5 cm long. The flowers and fruit grow from the trunk or singly at the ends of branches. The flowers are large and irregular and bell shaped. They are up to 6 cm long. They usually occur . The tube shaped flowers are yellowish green with purple stripes. The fruit are pointed and yellowish green. The fruit are candle shaped and 12 cm long by 7 cm wide. The fruit is waxy. They are dull yellow and short and plump with ridges like okra. It has many angles and grooves.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the humid lowlands. It is native to Central America. It needs a frost free site. It needs reasonable drainage. In tropical Queensland it grows from sea level to 750 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 11-12. In Rockhampton Botanical gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants grow easily from seed. They can also be grown by cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees fruit in about 5 years. It flowers all year round.

NOTES

There are 9 Parmentiera species. They are trees from tropical America.

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