PLANT FACT SHEET

Cordia africana Lam.

GENUS *Cordia* **FAMILY** Boraginaceae

COMMON NAMES Large-leafed cordia, Sudan teak

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The ripe fruit has a sweet edible pulp and are eaten raw. It is used for drinks and sweets. The fruit are also dried. The seeds are eaten fresh.
The kernel of the nut is used to make an alcoholic drink. Caution: Alcohol is a cause of cancer.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree. It looses its leaves during the year. The crown is rounded. The trunk is often crooked. It grows 15 m high. The bark is pale brown and rough. It becomes cracked with age. The leaves are large and oval. They can be 16 cm long. They taper towards the tip. The base is rounded. The leaves are dark green above and paler underneath. The young shoots and underneath the leaves are covered with soft brown hairs. The flowers are white. They are funnel shaped. The occur in large numbers near the ends of branches. The flowers have a sweet scent. The fruit are round and 1 cm across. They are yellow. They are in a hairy cup. The seeds are in sweet sticky flesh. The fruit is edible. They contain about 6 seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in wooded grassland and forest. It grows between 1,200-2,100 m altitude in East Africa. It cannot tolerate frost. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. It can be cut back and will re-grow.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows quickly. Fruit are produced during the dry season.

NOTES

There are about 320 Cordia species.

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