PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Celtis iguanaea* (Jacq.) Sarg.

**GENUS** *Celtis* **FAMILY** Cannabaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Chichapi, Iguana hackberry

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Fruit

The ripe fruit are eaten raw.

## DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows to 4 m high. The trunk is 12-15 cm across. The branches are horizontal. They are flexible and have spines. It can form thickets. The leaves are alternate and have teeth along the edge. They are 5-7 cm long by 2.5-4 cm wide. They are oval and taper to the tip. The flowers contain both sexes. The fruit is fleshy and with a hard stone inside. The fruit are green when immature and yellow when ripe.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Bolivia it grows between 300 and 2000 m above sea level.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The ripe fruit are harvested and put into a plastic bag to allow them to soften making it easier to remove the seeds. The seeds are washed under running water. Fresh seeds are planted and they germinate in 4-6 weeks.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow quickly.

## NOTES

There are 70-100 Celtis species. They are mostly in the tropics. There are 8-10 species in tropical America. Also put in the family Ulmaceae.

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