PLANT FACT SHEET

Calamus latifolius Roxb.

GENUS *Calamus* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Waai pong, Black book rattan, Way chaw-ay

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Shoots, leaves, Fruit, Stem pith

The young top of the shoot can be eaten. The pith of the stem is cooked and eaten.
The leaf base can be eaten raw or boiled in curries.
The fruit can be eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A large climbing rattan or cane. It climbs to 30 m high. The canes can be 2 cm across. The internodes are 30 cm apart. The sheaths have scattered brown-yellow spines. The leaves are made up of leaflets. These leaves are 2.4-3.6 m long. There is a long spiny curved tendril 80 cm long at the end. The tendril which clings onto objects has spines. The male and female flowers are on separate plants. The fruit is a round one seeded fruit with a hard stone. It is about 1.5 cm across. It is shiny and brownish-yellow. The seeds have irregular wrinkles. The fruit have 18 vertical rows of scales.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in evergreen tropical forest. It grows in semi-dense forest. In Laos it grows between 100-650 m altitude and in Thailand it grows up to 1,300 m altitude. It grows in secondary forests on limestone.

PRODUCTION

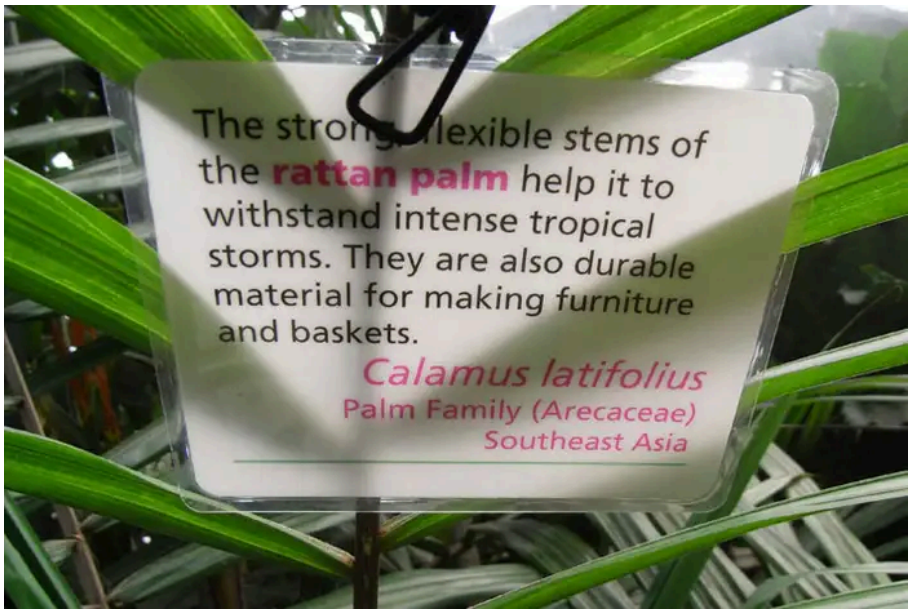
Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. They can also be grown from suckers.

NOTES

There are 375-400 Calamus species. There are 175 species in tropical Asia.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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