PLANT FACT SHEET

Prosopis nigra (Griseb.) Hieron.

GENUS *Prosopis* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Black mesquite, Black carob

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds - flour

The fruit pulp is sweet and is eaten. The pods are used to make flour.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 4-12 m high. It has some spines. The crown is irregular and has scattered leaves. The trunk is short and has grooves. It is 40-80 cm across. The bark is grey and splits in an irregular pattern. The leaves are compound. They have one pair of leaflet stalks with 12-24 pairs of leaflets along them. The flowers are in the axils of the leaves. The fruit is a pod that is constricted between the seeds. The pods are 7-18 cm long and has 10-18 seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical and subtropical plant. It grows in open vegetation in Argentina and Uruguay. It can grow in salty soils. It can grow in arid places. In Argentina it grows below 500 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. The seeds are collected from ripe pods off the tree. The pods are dried in the sun to make it easier to remove the seeds. Seeds should be planted fresh. Seedlings emerge in 7-15 days.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow slowly.

NOTES

Also as Mimosaceae.

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