PLANT FACT SHEET

Triphasia trifolia (Burm.f.) P.Wilson

GENUS *Triphasia* **FAMILY** Rutaceae

COMMON NAMES Lime berry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw or cooked or made into jam or juice. They are preserved in syrup.
They are also pickled.

DESCRIPTION

A small spiny shrub up to 7 m high with slender zigzag twigs. There are 2 spines near each leaf. The leaves have 3 leaflets and are small and dark green with slightly toothed edges. Flowers are in axils of leaves and are white and about 1 cm across. The small berry is green when young and turns red when ripe. They are 1-2 cm across. The skin has glands in it and the 3 sections of the fruit have 1-3 slimy seeds inside.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in tropical Asia. They are widely distributed in the settled areas of the Philippines and are sometimes cultivated. Mainly in lowland coastal areas.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. It can be grown as a hedge.

Planting instructions

Lime Berry

Triphasia trifolia

What is the plant like?

This is a small tree or shrub with spines on the branches. Each leaf is made up of 3 small leaflets. The twigs tend to go in a zig-zag fashion with leaves produced alternatively along them and a pair of spines near each leaf.

The smallish white flowers have 3 petals and are about 1cm across. They hang below the twigs either singly or in groups of up to 3 and they have a sweet smell.

A round berry about 1.5cm across is produced. It starts as a green fruit then turns to orange and finally a dull red when ripe. These berries have between one and 3 seeds inside and the flesh is a little slimy or sticky. They can be eaten.

Where do the lime berries grow?

How do you grow lime berries?

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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