PLANT FACT SHEET

Caesalpinia pulcherrima (L.) Swartz.

GENUS *Caesalpinia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Barbados pride, Paradise flower

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Flowers, Pod

The mature seeds are eaten raw.
The young seeds are eaten fresh or cooked.
The flowers are lightly cooked and eaten.
Caution: The plant can contain hydrocyanide so needs to be cooked before using.

DESCRIPTION

A bush or shrub. It grows 3 m tall. It has a single stem at the base. It branches widely. The leaves are compound and are divided twice. There can be 12 pairs of leaflets. These are 2 cm long. There are long flower spikes on the ends of most branches. The flowers have long stalks. The flowers can be red, pink, gold or yellow. The petals have wavy edges. The stamens are long. The fruit are flat, hanging pods. They are 12 cm long. They are green and turn dark brown. The pods twist open on the tree.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows throughout the tropics. It East Africa it grows best near the coast. It does best with moderate rainfall and a seasonally dry climate. It suits sandy, well-drained soil. It needs full sun. It is salt tolerant. It is damaged by drought or frost. It grows below 2,000 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places. In XTBG Yunnan. It suits hardiness zones 11-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed. Seed need treatment before sowing. They can also be grown from cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing.

NOTES

There are about 150 Caesalpinia species. They grow in the tropics and subtropics. Also as Caesalpinaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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