PLANT FACT SHEET

Litsea cubeba (Lour.) Pers.

GENUS *Litsea* **FAMILY** Lauraceae

COMMON NAMES Aromatic Litsea, Fragrant Litsea, Mountain pepper

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit - spice, Root, Flowers - tea, Leaves - flavouring, Seed

The fruit are used as a spice in place of Piper cubeba. It is used to flavour goat's meat and fish. It is used for pickles.
The flowers can be eaten or used for tea.
The roots are cooked with pork.
The fruit, bark and leaves are used as a curry ingredient by the Karen. They have the smell of lemon grass when crushed.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It loses its leaves during the year. It grows up to 10 m tall. The branches are black and hairy. The leaves are alternate. The leaf stalks are 6-20 cm long. The leaf blade is oblong and 4-11 cm long by 1.1-2.4 cm wide. The leaves are wedge shaped at the base and taper to the tip. There are 6-16 pairs of side veins on each side of the midrib. The leaves have a lemon scent. Flowers are separately male and female. The berries are black. They are 5 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. In southern China it occurs on sunny slopes near water between 500-3200 m altitude. In Sikkim it grows between 1,300-1,800 m above sea level. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Nagaland fruit are available May to August. In Sikkim March to May.

NOTES

It is used in medicine. There are 200 or 400 Litsea species.

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