PLANT FACT SHEET

Melicoccus oliviformis (Kunth) Radlk.

GENUS *Melicoccus* **FAMILY** Sapindaceae

COMMON NAMES Yellow genip, Olive shaped honey berry, Olive shaped talisia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The fruit are eaten fresh. They are also made into juice and jam.
The seeds are eaten roasted.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized tree. It grows 18 m high. The crown is round. The trunk is 25-35 cm across. The leaves have 4 leaflets. These are arranged in opposite pairs. They are thin and leathery and 5-12 cm long. The flowers are in the axils of the leaves. They are often clustered near the ends of branches. The flowers are very small and 3-4 mm long. They have white petals fringed with hairs. The fruit occur in clusters of 6-8. The fruit are small and round. They are 2.5 cm across. They have a leathery skin. The flesh is translucent (lets light through) and yellowish or pink. There is one large seed.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It suits the hot, wet tropical lowlands. It can grow in areas with good or poor soils. It can grow in areas with low or high rainfall. It cannot tolerate frost. It grows from sea level to 150 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruit mature in 120 days.

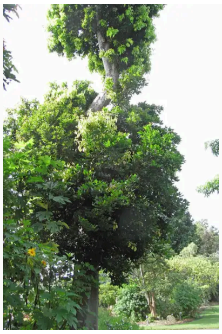
PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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