PLANT FACT SHEET

Artocarpus lacucha (Roxb.) Buch.-Ham. ex D.Don

GENUS *Artocarpus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Monkey Jack, Lakoocha

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Fruit, Flowers, Bark, Leaves, Vegetable

The flat broad seeds are roasted and eaten.
The ripe fruit are eaten raw. They have a sweet-sour taste.
The immature fruit are cooked in curry or used in chutney and pickles.
The male flowers are pickled.
The bark is chewed as a substitute for betel nut.
The young shoots are cooked as a vegetable. The young leaves are used for a sour taste.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree which loses its leaves during the year. The tree grows to 10-50 m high. The trunk is short and erect but is can be bent. The crown is rounded and spreading. The bark is reddish-brown and rough and scaly in old trees. The young branches are densely covered with stiff, pale brown hairs. The leaves are alternate. The leaf stalk is 2-3 cm long. The leaves are oblong and 20-30 cm long and 2-16 cm wide. Sometimes the leaves have lobes. They are dark green and smooth above but softly hairy underneath. Male and female flowers occur on the same tree. They are clustered together in the outer surface of rounded heads. These grow at the base of the leaves. The male flower head is yellow. They are 0.8-5 cm long but fall off. The fruit have a fleshy receptacle. The fruit are velvety and yellow when ripe. They are 7-13 cm across. The fruit contains 20-30 seeds. The seeds are oblong.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It suits a warm, humid climate. It grows in Nepal from sea level to 900 m altitude. In China it grows in forests in limestone mountains between 100-700 m altitude in Yunnan. In India it grows up to 1,500 m altitude. It is sensitive to frost, but is hardier than jackfruit. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Fresh seed should be used as seed do not store well. Seedlings do not transplant well.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees start bearing after 6-7 years. Yields per tree can be 80 kg. In India fruit are available from June to August.

NOTES

There are about 50 Artocarpus species. They are in the tropics and subtropics of Asia and the Pacific.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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