PLANT FACT SHEET

Avicennia marina subsp. australasica (Walp.) J. Everett

GENUS *Avicennia* **FAMILY** Acanthaceae

COMMON NAMES Grey mangrove, Manawa

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Nuts, Fruit

The bitter fruit are eaten after soaking and baking. (To remove tannins)

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows about 3-8 m tall. The roots are spreading. There are many erect breathing roots. These can be about 1 cm across. The bark is dark grey. It has very fine cracks. The leaf stalks are 0.5-1 cm long. The blade is narrowly oval and entire. They can be 8 cm long by 5 cm wide. They are leathery. They have a grey covering underneath. The flowering shoots are at the ends of branches. The flowers have very short stalks. The fruit is a flattened capsule 2 cm long. It is yellowish-brown.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. They grow near high water mark in coastal regions. It grows on sandy-muddy banks which are occasionally flooded by salty or brackish water.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The seed coat is usually split on the plant and drops a young seedling into the ground. The seedlings can float for a week. Seedlings are easy to transplant.

NOTES

There are about 6-8 Avicennia species. They are tropical. Also put in the family Avicenniaceae.

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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