PLANT FACT SHEET

Uapaca kirkiana Mull. Arg.

GENUS *Uapaca* **FAMILY** Phyllanthaceae

COMMON NAMES Wild loquat, Masuku

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The flesh of the fruit is eaten. The dried fruit have a toffee like flavour.
The fruit are used for jam. It can be used for cakes that are fried and eaten. The juice of the fruit is mixed with sorghum meal to form a porridge.
They are fermented into wine.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 5-6 m high. It can be 13 m high. It has a rounded crown. The bark is dark grey and rough. The leaves are scattered or clustered at the tips of branches. They are oval and 11 cm long by 11 cm wide. They are thickly leathery. The upper surface is dark green and shiny. The lower surface has rust coloured woolly hairs. The male and female flowers are greenish-yellow. The fruit is round and rusty-yellow. They are 3-4 cm across. They are fleshy with a rather hard skin. The flesh is edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the lowlands and the highlands. It occurs at medium altitudes in open woodland. It can be dominant on gravelly soils. It grows between 720-1,950 m above sea level. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall between 500-1,300 mm. It needs a temperature in the range 14°-29°C. It can grow in arid places. It grows in Miombo woodland in Africa.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. The seeds need to be planted fresh. It can be grown from root suckers. It can be cut back and will re-grow. When fertilized or manured, survival and early growth of the tree is reduced. It can be grown by grafting.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees from seed can reach 1.3 m after 4 years. The fruit are kept in the dark for a few days after picking to ripen. In Tanzania ripe fruit are collected from October to January. Fruit can be collected from the ground.

NOTES

16 species of edible fungi are associated with this tree.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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