PLANT FACT SHEET

Sesbania formosa (F. Muell.) N. T. Burb.

GENUS *Sesbania* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES White pea bush, Dragon flower tree, Swamp corkwood, Swampy corkwood, Water tree, White dragon tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Flower - nectar, Leaves, Pods

The flowers are edible raw or cooked.
The young pods are cooked.

DESCRIPTION

An erect slender tree. It grows 10-15 m high. The leaves have leaflets. The whole leaf is 20-40 cm long. It is divided into pairs of oblong leaflets. These are 3-6 cm long by 1-1.5 cm wide. They have a small pointed tip. The flowers are large and white. They are pea flowers. These are 7-12 cm long in groups along stalks with 2-7 flowers. The fruit is a long and smooth pod. It is 40-60 cm long and 0.5 cm wide. These are straight or slightly curved. They hang down. They are cream-brown when ripe. They contain many shiny brown seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is native to tropical or monsoonal Australia. They grow naturally on black soils on the fringes of flood plains. They will grow on a wide range of well-drained soils. It grows from sea level to 100 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed of cuttings. The seeds should be treated with hot water before planting.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is a very fast growing plant.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Austral. J. Bot. 13:115. 1965

Barwick, M., 2004, Tropical and Subtropical Trees. A Worldwide Encyclopedic Guide. Thames and Hudson p 375

Brock, J., 1993, Native Plants of Northern Australia, Reed. p 298

Cherikoff V. & Isaacs, J., The Bush Food Handbook. How to gather, grow, process and cook Australian Wild Foods. Ti Tree Press, Australia p 201

Cowie, I, 2006, A Survey of Flora and vegetation of the proposed Jaco-Tutuala-Lore National Park. Timor-Lests (East Timor) www.territorystories.nt/gov.au p 48

Doran, J.C., & Turnbull, J.W. (Eds), 1997, Australian Trees and Shrubs: species for land rehabilitation and farm plantings in the tropics. ACIAR Monograph No 24. p 336

Hibbert, M., 2002, The Aussie Plant Finder 2002, Florilegium. p 290

Jones D, L, 1986, Ornamental Rainforest Plants in Australia, Reed Books, p 159

Kenneally, K.E., Edinger, D. C., and Willing T., 1996, Broome and Beyond, Plants and People of the Dampier Peninsula, Kimberley, Western Australia. Department of Conservation and Land Management. p 160

King, M. & Horsfall, J., 2023, Kimberley Bush Food. Edible Plants of the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. UWAP. p 526

Lazarides, M. & Hince, B., 1993, Handbook of Economic Plants of Australia, CSIRO. p 217

Lord, E.E., & Willis, J.H., 1999, Shrubs and Trees for Australian gardens. Lothian. p 20

Paczkowska, G . & Chapman, A.R., 2000, The Western Australian Flora. A Descriptive Calatogue. Western Australian Herbarium. p 446

Petheram, R.J. and Kok, B., 2003, Plants of the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. UWA Press p 519

Taylor, D. & van Leewen, S., Aboriginal Names for Pilbara Plants.

Townsend, K., 1994, Across the Top. Gardening with Australian Plants in the tropics. Society for Growing Australian Plants, Townsville Branch Inc. p 334

Wheeler, J.R.(ed.), 1992, Flora of the Kimberley Region. CALM, Western Australian Herbarium, p 434

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/95097256-1be6-4038-9f3e-e6f13657e2c4