PLANT FACT SHEET

Delonix regia (Bojer ex Hook.) Rafinesque

GENUS *Delonix* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Royal Poinciana, Flame Tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Leaves, Flowers, Fruit

The young leaves are sometimes eaten as a vegetable.
The flower buds are eaten as a pot herb.
The seeds contain a gum. They are eaten.
The green fruit are roasted and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tree which loses its leaves during the year in places with a long dry season. It grows to 12 m tall and spreads to 6 m wide. The trunk is stout and has knots. The bark is thick and greyish brown. The leaves are twice divided and are feathery. The leaves are bright green. They are 30-50 cm long divided into 10-25 pairs of leaflets. The flowers are orange to scarlet. They have 5 club shaped petals. Flowers are 10-13 cm across. The fruit are reddish brown long pods. The pods can be 60 cm long. They are green and flexible when young and hard and brown when mature. They contain mottled yellow seeds which are oblong.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is native to Madagascar. They are frost tender. They need full sunlight. They need a fertile, moist but well drained soil. The temperatures need to be above 18-21°C for seeds to grow. Trees must have a temperature above 7°C. In Nepal it grows up to 1000 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 11-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Trees can be grown from seed or cuttings. Cuttings grow best in soil with bottom heat. The seeds can be placed in boiling water for 2 minutes, then soaked in cold water for 24 hours to help them germinate.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The pods take about 2 years to ripen.

NOTES

There are 2 (10) Delonix species. Also as Caesalpinaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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