PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Lawsonia inermis L.

GENUS *Lawsonia* **FAMILY** Lythraceae

COMMON NAMES Henna, Tree mignonette

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Food colouring, Leaves - flavouring, Medicine

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It has a sweet smell. It grows 3-7 m tall. The bark is greyish-brown. The small branches have spines near their tip. The leaves are simple and opposite. The leaves vary and can be oval and 8-44 mm long by 2-20 mm wide. The flower panicles are 3-22 cm long. They are near the ends of branches. The flowers are white or red and have a scent. The fruit is a small round capsule. It is brown and splits into 4 sections. The seeds are angular and 3 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in the Sahel area in West Africa. It can grow in arid places. It tends to grow near water courses in semi-arid regions. At MARDI.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or cuttings.

NOTES

Unknown if edible. It is used in medicine. There is only one Lawsonia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/a0ae4dd5-9c11-415c-a972-efffb155e568