PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Citrus hystrix* (L.) D.C.

**GENUS** *Citrus* **FAMILY** Rutaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Wild lime, Kaffir lime

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Leaves, Fruit, Spice

The leaves and fruit are used to make drinks or to flavour food. They are added to soups and curries.
The leaves are pounded into a jelly and mixed with hot chili pastes.
The fruit are eaten crystallised. The juice of the fruit is used for flavouring.
The lemon scented fruit are eaten with fish.

## DESCRIPTION

A low shrubby tree up to 6 or 8 m high. The trunk is thin and crooked. It has slender sharp thorns. The leaf petiole has very large lobes. The leaf is oval. The leaves can be 8-15 cm long by 3-5 cm wide including the leafy stalks. The leaves are dark green and shiny above and pale and matt underneath. The flowers are small and white. The fruit are small (8 cm across) with a rough, thick skin and very little edible pulp inside. They are very acid. The peel of the fruit is very fragrant.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It mainly occurs in lowland areas in the tropics. It suits hardiness zones 10-12. In Yunnan.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or by grafting. It often now grows wild in coastal areas. It grows slowly.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

The tree flowers throughout the year but has most ripe fruit about June and July.

## NOTES

There are 20 Citrus species. Several hybrids have been formed. It contains alpha-tocopherol (Vitamin E) content of 66.00 mg per 100 g.

## PICTURES




Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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