PLANT FACT SHEET

Dasylirion wheeleri S. Watson

GENUS *Dasylirion* **FAMILY** Asparagaceae

COMMON NAMES Sotol, Bear-grass, Cactus-spoon, Desert-spoon, Spoonplant, Wheeler sotol

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Heart, Bud, Young stalks, Nuts

The head contains a sugary sap which is fermented. The drink is called sotol.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. The trunk is un-branched and 1.5-3 m tall. The leaves are blue-green and very spiny. The leaves are 1 m long. They radiate out in a circle. The flower spike is very tall. It can be 4.5 m tall. The flowers are very small and cream. The fruit are brown nuts.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows in arid places. It can grow in average to poor, well-drained soil. It can grow in full or part sun. It suits hardiness zones 9-11. In Brisbane Botanical gardens.

NOTES

Also put in the family Nolinaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Beckstrom-Sternberg, Stephen M., and James A. Duke. "The Foodplant Database." http://probe.nalusda.gov:8300/cgi-bin/browse/foodplantdb. (ACEDB version 4.0 - data version July 1994)

Brickell, C. (Ed.), 1999, The Royal Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants. Convent Garden Books. p 348

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 257

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications. p 3

http://en.hortipedia.com

Kermath, B. M., et al, 2014, Food Plants in the Americas: A survey of the domesticated, cultivated and wild plants used for Human food in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. On line draft. p 298

Kiple, K.F. & Ornelas, K.C., (eds), 2000, The Cambridge World History of Food. CUP p 1854

Llamas, K.A., 2003, Tropical Flowering Plants. Timber Press. p 335

Nabhan, G. P., et al, 2022, Reviving the Arid American Diet in the Face of Climate Change: Assessing its Composition, Links to the Mesomerican Diet and Potential to Advance Indigenous Health and Diabetes Prevention. International Journal of Water Resources and Arid Environments 11(2): 81-112

Proc. Amer. Acad. 14:249. 1879

Smith, N., Mori, S.A., et al, 2004, Flowering Plants of the Neotropics. Princeton. p 464

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

Yetman, D., 2002, The Guarijios of the Sierra Madre: Hidden People of Northwestern Mexico. University of New Mexico Press. p 212

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/a358e2eb-c10a-4d08-9fee-ff769e676c96