PLANT FACT SHEET

Spondias mombin L.(1753) non L.(1759)

GENUS *Spondias* **FAMILY** Anacardiaceae

COMMON NAMES Mombin

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Leaves

The fruit are used fresh or cooked. They are acidic. They are also used for jams, jellies and ice cream. The fruit can be dried.
Because it is sour it is often sweetened and used for drinks.
The unripe fruit are pickled and eaten like olives.
The young leaves are cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized tree. It grows 20-30 m high. The trunk can be 0.5-2 m across. Branches start after 10-15 m. They are widespread and sparse. The leaves are compound. They have leaflets along the stalk. The leaflets are in pairs with a leaflet at the end. There are 5-9 pairs. The flowers occur on stalks near the ends of the branches. The fruit are small and yellow. They are 2.5-4 cm long. They have one large seed. The flesh is sub-acid.

HABITAT

It is tropical. It grows in the tropical lowlands. It will grow in wet or dry zones. It grows up to 1,000 m above sea level. In Bolivia it grows where rainfall is 1,000-1,500 mm per year. It cannot tolerate frost. In Cairns Botanical Gardens. It can tolerate a range of soils.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings. The fresh fruit can be planted whole. The flesh can be removed and the seeds dried. Seeds only store well for about 3 months. Seeds germinate in 20-40 days. It is often used as a living fence or hedge. Plants can be budded.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing. Plants can be 3.5 m high in 2 years. Fruit weigh about 20 g.

NOTES

It has antioxidants.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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