PLANT FACT SHEET

Aesculus chinensis Bunge

GENUS *Aesculus* **FAMILY** Sapindaceae

COMMON NAMES Chinese horse chestnut

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds

The seed are eaten after cooking. Most likely they should be roasted, crushed then washed in running water to remove saponins.

DESCRIPTION

A tree which grows to 25 m tall. It spreads to 10 m wide. Seeds can be 3 cm across. The flowers are in a cylinder shaped panicle. They are white. These can be 45 cm long. The fruit are oval capsules 3-5 cm across. There are 1 or 2 brown seeds. They are 2-4 cm across.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It occurs naturally in the mountains of Szechuan Province in North China. It prefers a deep loamy well drained soil but will grow on most soils. Trees are very hardy when dormant. They probably do best in a continental climate. This is hot summers and cold dry winters. It suits hardiness zones 6-9. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seed should be sown when fresh. They germinate almost immediately. Trees can be transplanted easily.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is slow growing. In China plants flower in April to June and fruit September to October.

NOTES

There are 15 Aesculus species.
Also put in the family Hippocastanaceae.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/a6418664-65e2-4639-837b-b24034a22fef