PLANT FACT SHEET

Crateva religiosa Forst.f.

GENUS *Crateva* **FAMILY** Capparaceae

COMMON NAMES Sacred garlic pear

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Leaves, Flowers, Fruit

The fruit are edible. Usually they are cooked.
The tender leaves and buds are boiled and squeezed to lessen the bitterness then cooked as a vegetable or pickled.
The flowers are pickled and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen or deciduous tree. It grows up to 7-15 m tall and 45 cm across the trunk. The tree spreads to 2-4 m across. The stem is erect and the bark is smooth, with branches low down. The leaves have long petioles, 2-9 cm long. The leaves are divided into 3 leaflets growing from the same point. The leaflets are pointed at the base and have a slender point at the tip. The two halves of the leaflets are unequal in size. The leaflets are 5-27 cm long by 3-10 cm wide. The leaves are light green. The flowers are white, then yellow, turning pale violet and they are large, up to 5-7 cm across. They are borne in large bunches 3-14 cm long. These are near the ends of branches. The fruit is rounded and about 6-15 cm long by 5-9 cm across. They are sausage shaped. The fruit is edible. There are many seeds, which are kidney shaped.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is native to SE Asia and Australia. It prefers moist soils and an open sunny position. It is drought and frost tender. It can tolerate temporary flooding. Found in waste places near streams and in areas of shrubs, near the sea from northern Luzon to Masbate and Palawan and probably also in Mindanao and Sulu Archipelago in the Philippines. In Nepal it grows to about 1500 m altitude. It needs a temperature above 15°C.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. Seed need to be sown while fresh. Plants can be grown from cuttings or root suckers.

Harvesting and Seed Production

A slow growing plant.

NOTES

There are 6 Crateva species. The tree is planted near graves and religious sites.

PICTURES



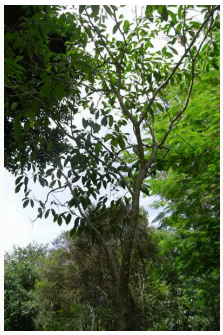
Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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