PLANT FACT SHEET

Styphnolobium japonicum (L.) Schott

GENUS *Styphnolobium* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Japanese Pagoda Tree, Yellow berry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Leaves, Seeds starch, Fruit

The shoots are sun-dried, and boiled three times to remove the bitter element, before eating.
The flowers are eaten.
The flowers, fruit and leaves are used as a substitute for tea.
The seeds are a source of starch.

DESCRIPTION

A tree which loses its leaves during the year. It grows 18-25 m tall and spreads 12-18 m wide. The trunk becomes twisted and knotted. The bark is grey-brown with prominent ridges. It loses its leaves during the year. The leaves are about 30 cm long and made up of up to 15 leaflets. They are dark green by slightly downy underneath. The flowers are white and pea-like There are 10 stamens. The flowers are in long clusters up to 26 cm long. The pods are like cylinders but with contractions along them. The pods are 5-10 cm long. The pods often remain hanging on the tree for a long time.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is native to China. It tolerates drought and poor soils. It is frost hardy. It suits regions with hot dry summers. It needs a sunny position. It suits hardiness zones 5-9. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Selected varieties can be grown by cleft grafting.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is slow to reach flowering stage.

NOTES

There are about 45-50 Sophora species. They grow mainly in the tropics and subtropics.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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