PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Butia eriospatha* (Mart.) Becc.

**GENUS** *Butia* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Butia, Woolly butia palm

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Fruit, Nuts, Oil

The fruit is edible raw. They can be used for jellies and jams.
The nut is edible.
The nut is also used for oil.
Fruit used to flavour alcoholic drinks. Caution: Alcohol is a cause of cancer.

## DESCRIPTION

A solitary palm. It grows 3-6 m tall. They are 50 cm across and rough. There are 25-30 leaves. They arch over. The leaf stalk has coarse spines along the edges. There are 50-90 leaflets on each side of the leaf. The leaflets are regularly arranged and spread our stiffly forming a V shape. The bract has a dense brown covering on the outer side. There are about 125 flowering branches. The fruit are round and 1.7-1.9 cm across. They are yellowish.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. They grow in open areas and in Araucaria forests. In Argentina it grows between 700-1,100 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 9-11. Mt Cootha Botanical Gardens. In XTBG Yunnan. In Townsville palmetum.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown from fresh seed. Seed can take a long time to germinate. They can take 3-6 month to germinate.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow slowly.

## NOTES

There are about 9 Butea species.

## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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**ONLINE FACT SHEET** https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/b33bedcb-2e70-46d2-9e14-10a11b8fff2f