PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Maclura pomifera (Rafinesque) Schneider

GENUS *Maclura* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Osage orange, Bodark, Bois d'arc, Bow-wood, Hedge apple

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit - oil

The dried fruit pulp contains a fatty oil which is edible after purification.
CAUTION: It could only be used with great care and correct processing.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree which loses its leaves. The crown is round. It can grow 10-15 m high. The plant has a thick white sap. The bark is orange-brown and cracked. The leaves are small and alternate. They are oval and 7-12 cm long by 5 cm across. They narrow into a long tip. The twigs are orange brown. They can become a thorn at each leaf base. The flowers are wind pollinated. The male and female flowers are on separate trees. They are small and yellow in clusters 1 cm long. The fruit are 10-14 cm across. They resemble a green orange made up of small fruit fused together.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is native to C. & S. United States. It will grows under a variety of difficult conditions. It is intolerant of shade. It can withstand bitter cold and drought. It will grow in very alkaline soils. It suits hardiness zones 6-10. Mt Cootha Botanical Gardens. National Arboretum Canberra.

PRODUCTION

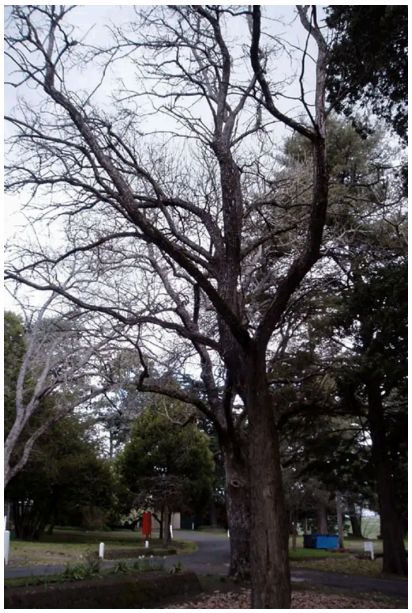
Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. The seed need to be planted fresh. It can reproduce by root sprouts and root cuttings.

NOTES

There is only one Maclura species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/b426b4cf-aff9-4463-9c4d-06b882f6e266