PLANT FACT SHEET

Macadamia integrifolia Maiden & Betche

GENUS *Macadamia* **FAMILY** Proteaceae

COMMON NAMES Macadamia nut, Smooth-shelled Macadamia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: seeds, Nuts

The nuts are eaten raw although some kinds are roasted. They can be coated with chocolate or carob and used in pastries, candies, ice cream, cakes and pies.
The oil can be used with salads and stir-fried dishes.

DESCRIPTION

A medium size evergreen tree. It grows 18 m tall and spreads 15 m wide. It has a bushy habit. Young growth is pale green. Young leaves are long and toothed at the edge. Leaves are 10-20 cm long by 3-5 cm wide. They occur in whorls or rings of 3 or 4 leaves. They are stiff and dark green. The leaves are entire with a wavy or slightly prickly edge. Flowers occur in clustered stalks 10-30 cm long. They occur in the axils of leaves and hang downwards. The flowers are about 1.2 cm long. They are slender and white. The fruit are 3-4 cm across and green and leathery. The nuts are produced in a hanging cluster. They are 2-3 cm across and round. They are smooth and shiny.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows in the highlands in the tropics. It is native to Australia. In Australia trees grow naturally in rain forests in the subtropics. It suits humid locations. Soils need to be well-drained. They need a sheltered site as they suffer from wind damage. They do best in humus rich soils. They can tolerate light frosts. It has been introduced to other countries from Australia. It does well at 1000 to 1200 m altitude in Papua New Guinea and will grow up to 1700 m. In XTBG Yunnan. It suits hardiness zones 9-11.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Trees are mostly grown from seed. Seed should be sown fresh. Seeds germinate quickly and easily. They can be grown from cuttings. Plants can be grown by budding or grafting. Pruning increases branching. A spacing of 5 to 10 m is suitable. Many varieties need pollinator trees and bees to assist pollination.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Nuts are ripe from January to March in Australia. Nuts are harvested after they fall. The outside husk needs to be rubbed off then the nuts dried in the sun.

NOTES

There are about 14 Macadamia species. They are mainly in Australia.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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