PLANT FACT SHEET

Anacardium giganteum W. Hancock ex Engl.

GENUS *Anacardium* **FAMILY** Anacardiaceae

COMMON NAMES Cajui, Giant cashew

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Nuts, Flower stalk, Fruit

The fleshy enlarged flower stalks are eaten green, cooked or roasted.
They are also made into an alcoholic beverage. Caution: Alcohol is a cause of cancer.
The nuts are roasted and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows 25-30 m high. The trunk is 50-90 cm across. The bark is almost smooth. The leaves are 14-20 cm long and 8-12 cm wide. The flowers are pink but turn red. They have a scent. The fruit stalk becomes large and soft. It is 4 cm long. The nut is attached to it.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in drier areas in the Amazon in Brazil. It suits the hot humid tropical lowlands.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The ripe fruit are harvested and the nut removed for planting. The nut is soaked in water for 48 hours before planting, changing the water each 8 hours. Seeds germinate in 15-25 days. They are kept in light shade until planted in the field.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow at a moderate rate. They can be 2 m tall in 2 years. The stalk ripens within 3-4 months during the rainy season.

NOTES

There are 8-11 Anacardium species. They grow in tropical America.

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