PLANT FACT SHEET

Annona crassiflora C. Martius

GENUS *Annona* **FAMILY** Annonaceae

COMMON NAMES Marolo, Fleshyflower annona

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten fresh or used for drinks and ice-cream. They are also used for liqueur and as cake filling.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 4-8 m high. The trunk is usually twisted and 20-30 cm across. The bark is thick and cracked. The leaves are thin and leathery. They are 6-17 cm long by 3-12 cm wide. They are slightly hairy below. The flowers occur singly in the axils of leaves. They are white. The fruit are fairly large. They have a sweet smelling pulp. The fruit can weigh 4 kg.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows naturally in semiarid scrub land and forest. It grows between 400-1,200 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The ripe fruit are harvested and put in heaps to allow them to decompose. The seeds are then removed in running water. Seeds will only store for a short time. The seeds have a hard seed coat so germination is improved if the seed coat is scratched.

NOTES

There are about 100-150 Annona species. It has anticancer properties. Also antioxidant.

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