PLANT FACT SHEET

Pterocarpus indicus Willd., non Baker

GENUS *Pterocarpus* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Burmese Rosewood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Flowers, Vegetable

The flowers and very young leaves are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized evergreen tree. It grows to 27-30 m high and spreads to 4 m across. The stem is erect and stout. It branches. The trunk is 60-80 cm across. The leaves are compound with an odd number of leaflets. These are oval. The leaves are 20-45 cm long. The leaflets are 6-10 cm long by 3-5 cm wide. It can lose its leaves. The flowers are yellow and woolly. The sepals forming the outer ring of the flowers are brown. The flowers occur as many in a branched flower arrangement. The flowers are bell shaped. The fruit are round pods. These are 5 cm across. They can have 1 or 2 seeds but sometimes 4.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is native to tropical Asia. It does best in rich, moist, well-drained soils. It needs a protected sunny position. It is damaged by drought and frost. It is often found in coastal swamps along tidal creeks. It usually grows in areas with an annual average temperature of 22-32°C. It can grow in soils with a pH of 4.0-7.4. It suits hardiness zones 11-12. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The seed need treatment to break the hard seed coat. Woody shoots take root easily. It can be grown by air-layering.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing. All trees in one area flower at the same time for just a few days due to the drop in temperature with the first rains.

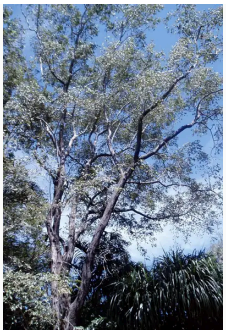
NOTES

The timber is an attractive furniture timber.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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