PLANT FACT SHEET

Cordia sebestena L.

GENUS *Cordia* **FAMILY** Boraginaceae

COMMON NAMES Scarlet Cordia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Bark, Flowers, Seeds

The ripe fruit can be eaten raw. They are also boiled or used in pickles. They are used for jams.
The bark and flowers are used to make a sugary syrup.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub. It can lose its leaves. It grows up to 10 m high. The leaves are oval and the base is sometimes heart shaped. They are 10-20 cm long. There are teeth on the edge near the tip. The flowers are deep red or orange. They are funnel shaped. The lobes spread out. The fruit are large and creamy white. They are fleshy and 2.5 cm across.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in tropical America. It is very salt tolerant. It needs sandy, well drained soil. It needs full sun. It cannot tolerate cold temperatures. It is damaged by frost. It can tolerate drought. It suits hardiness zones 11-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed or cuttings. It can also be grown by air-layering.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is very slow growing. Flowers are fruit are produced all year round.

NOTES

There are about 300 Cordia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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