PLANT FACT SHEET

Gleditsia sinensis Lamarck

GENUS *Gleditsia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Chinese honey locust, Chinese locust, Chinese soap-pod tree, Soap bean tree, Soap pod

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, pod, Seeds

The young leaves and pods are eaten.
The hard, transparent material outside the cotyledons in cooked as a dessert.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It loses its leaves. It grows 12-30 m tall. It has large branched thorns. The leaves are yellowish-green. The leaves have leaflets along the stalks. The fruit are pods. They are purplish-brown and thick and woody. They can be 25 cm long. There are many small brown seeds. They are oblong and 11-13 mm long by 8-9 mm wide.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. In China it grows in mountain slopes and in forests between 200-2,500 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 5-10. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

NOTES

There are about 14 Gleditsia species. It is used in medicine. The pods are boiled and used for washing. Also as Caesalpinaceae.

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