PLANT FACT SHEET

Nephelium ramboutan-ake (Labillardiere) Leenhouts

GENUS *Nephelium* **FAMILY** Sapindaceae

COMMON NAMES Pulasan, Kapulasan

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The fruit is eaten fresh. They are also stewed and made into jams and preserves.
The seeds can be eaten raw or cooked. They can be boiled or roasted. They can then be used for a drink.
The seeds also yield a cooking oil.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It can sometimes grow up to 30 m high. The trunk can be 60 cm across. It sometimes has buttresses. The bark is brown. The twigs can be hairy or smooth. The leaves are alternate and have leaflets along the stalk. The leaves have 1-7 pairs of leaflets. The leaflets are oval. They taper to the tip. The leaflets are 7-18 cm long by 5 cm wide. They are dark green above and more pale underneath. The base can be tapering or round. They are 4-20 cm long by 2-11 cm wide. Male and female flowers are on separate trees. The flowers are in the axils of leaves near the ends of branches. The flowers are small and greenish. They can occur singly or in clusters. The fruit are oval or almost round and 4-6.5 cm long by 2.5-5 cm wide. They have hard woody spines. There is one seed inside.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the humid tropics. In Borneo it grows up to 1,300 m above sea level. It suits areas with a rainfall between 2,000-5,000 mm. The best temperature is between 20°-30°C. The best pH is 4.5-6.5. It grows on sandy and clay soils. It grows between 12°N-12°S. It suits hardiness zones 11-12. It needs plenty of moisture and a humid climate. It grows naturally in Western Malaysia. It does best with an average temperature near 28°C. In Malaysia it grows between 100-350 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

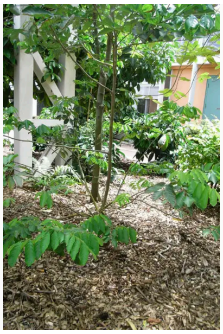
Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. Plants can be male or female. Preferably plants are grown by air-layering or grafting. Usually air-layered plants do not live a long time. The best female trees are usually propagated by budding. Budding should be done onto already established rootstocks. Trees can be spaced 8-10 m apart.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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