PLANT FACT SHEET

Bactris major var. infesta (Mart.) Drude

GENUS *Bactris* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Marajau

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The flesh of the fruit is edible and can also be made into wine.

DESCRIPTION

A palm with a cluster of trunks. They can be 8 m tall but only 5 cm thick. The young palms are spiny. Older trunks are smooth. They have prominent white rings. The fronds are dull green and divided along the stalk. They are 1-2 m long. The leaflets occur in groups of 2-7. They are distributed in 3 different planes. They are 30-40 cm long and 1.5-2 cm wide. The fruit occur in clusters. They are egg-shaped and purple. The flesh is juicy and edible. There are 4 slightly different varieties.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. In Bolivia it grows up to 700 m altitude. It will grow on many well drained soils. It can grow in light shade but does better in full sun. It cannot tolerate frost.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seed need to be sown while fresh. Seed germinate readily. Young plants need shade but mature plants can grow in full sun.

NOTES

There are 239 Bactris species. There are 75 species in tropical America. Most Bactris have fruit that are edible but many are not attractive.

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