PLANT FACT SHEET

Caryocar villosum (Aublet) Persoon

GENUS *Caryocar* **FAMILY** Caryocaraceae

COMMON NAMES Piquia, Butternut, Souari nut

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: seeds, Nuts, Fruit, Oil

Seeds used to extract oil. The oil is used in cooking.
The nut is eaten.
Both the fruit and seeds contain edible oil.
The fruit pulp is eaten fresh but usually after cooking. It is boiled in salted water.
Caution: The seeds have rigid spines that must be avoided.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows to 20-40-50 m high. The trunk is 1-2.5 m across. The leaves have long leaf stalks. The leaves are compound with leaflets that are hairy on the upper surface. The leaflets are 6-12 cm long. The flowers occur in a cluster. The fruit are an irregular round shape. The outside is spiny. The fruit are 4-5 cm across. There are 1-2 white, oily seeds inside.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in areas with 1700-2500 mm annual rainfall. It grows in dryland forest in the Amazon.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The ripe fruit are harvested from the tree or off the ground and the seeds are removed and dried in the sun. The seeds are in the pits and the pits are soaked in water fro 48 hours changing the water every 12 hours. They are then planted and grow in 30-60 days.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow slowly.

NOTES

The Caryocaraceae occur in tropical America. There are 16 Caryocar species.

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