PLANT FACT SHEET

Acronychia acidula F. Muell.

GENUS *Acronychia* **FAMILY** Rutaceae

COMMON NAMES Lemon aspen

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The fruit is eaten raw. It is acid. It can be used in cooking. It is cooked with seafood or poultry.
It can be made into jams, syrup, cakes, sauces, jucie, conserves or salad dressing.
The small black seeds are edible.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 10-27 m tall and spreads 3-7 m across. It has a dense dark green crown. The crown is umbrella shaped. The small branches are smooth. The leaves have a single leaflet and are 7-24 cm long by 5-12 cm wide. They are like an ellipse and thin. The leaves are dark green on the upper surface and paler underneath. They are leaf stalks 2-7 cm long. The flowers are about 1 cm across and occur on dividing branches which have a long stalk. The flowers are yellow and have a sweet smell. The smell is more noticeable on warm days. The fruit is fleshy with a woody cover for the seed. The fruit may be ribbed on the surface. It is 2-3 cm across. The fruit have rounded dents near where the fruit joins the stalk. It is white to cream. There are usually 4 seeds and they are 0.4 cm long.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It is found in highland rainforest in Northeast Queensland, Australia. It grows to 1100 m altitude. It requires a well drained soil and prefers a sunny position but will grow in part shade. It can grow on a range of different soils. It can grow in cooler climates if it has good rainfall and fertile soil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed. The seed are hard to remove from the fruit and the fruit can be sown whole. The seed are slow to germinate. (6 weeks to 6 months.) Cuttings root easily. The soil around the tree should not be allowed to dry out. Fruit can be difficult to harvest because the trees are large. Fruit should be harvested just before they are ripe. They are damaged if they fall and rot quickly. The fruit can be frozen easily for storage. It can also be preserved in a light sugar syrup.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees are fast growing if well watered. Fruit are mature July to September but occur from April. It often bears large numbers of fruit every second year. About 20 fruit would give 100 g of lemon aspen flesh.

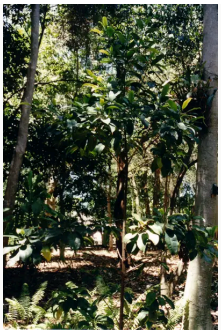
NOTES

There are 42-50 Acronychia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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