PLANT FACT SHEET

Fraxinus pennsylvanica Marshall

GENUS *Fraxinus* **FAMILY** Oleaceae

COMMON NAMES Green Ash, Mexican ash, Red Ash

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Bark

The soft inner bark is scraped and cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized tree. It grows to 21 m high. It spreads to a similar width. The trunk can be 60 cm across. The bark is greyish brown and often tinged with red on young branches. The leaves are green and divided into 5-9 leaflets. These are sometimes hairy. The leaflets are 10-15 cm long. They are oval but taper towards the point. They have teeth above the middle. The upper surface is yellowish-green and it is paler and hairy underneath. Leaves turn yellowish-brown in autumn. The leaf stalks are hairy with 2 narrow green wings. The buds are reddish brown. The flowers are of separate sexes on separate trees. The flower stalks are densely hairy. The fruit are 3-6 cm long. The wing encloses over one half of the seedcase.

HABITAT

It is native to North America. Temperate. It does best with a moist soil. It often grows in the bottoms of river valleys. It can tolerate some shade. It can stand many weeks of flooding when dormant. In East Africa it grows between 1,500-2,800 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 4-10. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Seed can lie dormant in the soil for several years before germinating.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is a fast growing tree. It lives for 100 years. It produces abundant seed crops almost every year.

NOTES

There are about 65 Fraxinus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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