PLANT FACT SHEET

Garcinia xanthochymus Hook. f. ex T. Anderson

GENUS *Garcinia* **FAMILY** Clusiaceae

COMMON NAMES Gamboge, Himalayan garcinia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit can be eaten raw. They are acidic and are often cooked with other vegetables.
The fruit can be used for making jams, curries, and vinegar.
It can be used as a substitute for tamarind in cooking.
The fruit can be eaten roasted or boiling.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 8-15 m tall. The trunk is short and straight. The trunk is 40-50 cm thick. The crown is dense and shaped like a pyramid. The bark is grey-brown. The latex is white and sticky. The branches and leaves often droop. The twigs are angular. The leaves are large. They are 12-24 cm long by 4-7 cm wide. They are shiny above and rough underneath. They are pale green when young. The leaf stalk is 1-2.5 cm long. The male and female flowers are separate. The flowers occur in tufts of 4-10. These are white and about 1 cm across. The fruit is a golden yellow berry. They are 6-9 cm across. The skin is smooth and pale orange to dark yellow. The pulp is yellow, juicy and acidic. It usually contains 1-5 seeds. These are brown and 2.5 cm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It suits the hot humid tropical lowlands. It grows in dense humid forests of valleys or on hills; (100-(600)-1000(-1400) m altitude in China. It grows in seasonal rainforest and monsoonal rainforest. It suits humid locations. The tree will grow in cooler regions but fruit are not produced. It can tolerate shade and grow in poor soils including a high pH. It suits hardiness zones 11-12. In the Cairns Botanical Gardens. In XTBG Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are normally grown from seed. They can also be grown by grafting.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruit are produced after 7-8 years. Fruit matures in 120-150 days. In NE India fruit are available May to July. In southern India February to May.

NOTES

There are about 300 Garcinia species.

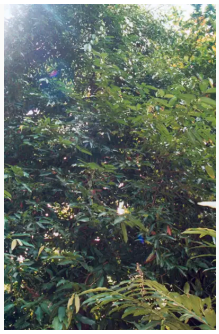
PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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