PLANT FACT SHEET

Wallichia disticha T. Anders

GENUS *Wallichia* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Wallich's disticha palm, Fan-shaped feathery palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Starch, Pith, Fruit

The starch from the stem is edible.
The fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A palm. It grows 6 m high. The trunk is fibrous and covered with old leaf bases. These form an interesting pattern. The leaves are 2.4-3 m long, The leaves are feather like and arranged in 2 opposite rows on each side of the trunk. This makes the palm appear flat from one side. The leaflets are broad and with ragged edges. They are grouped in bundles. The flowering stalk appears amongst the leaf bases. It is very large with thousands of fruit. The fruit are round and 1.5 cm across. They are dark red when ripe.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in the hilly districts in the foothills of the Himalayas. They grow to about 600 m altitude in the Himalayas. It will grow to 1200 m altitude in N India. It can grow on sandy granitic soils or limestone rocks. Seedlings are fairly sensitive to the cold. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is very fast growing. It is short lived. Plants can reach 7 m in 10-15 years. They then flower and die 4-5 years later.

NOTES

There are 7 Wallichia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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