PLANT FACT SHEET

Acioa longipendula (Pilger) Sothers & Prance

GENUS *Acioa* **FAMILY** Chrysobalanaceae

COMMON NAMES Pendula nut, Drooping couepia, Egg nut, Pendulum nut

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Seeds - oil, Nuts

The seed or nut is eaten fresh, roasted or toasted.
The kernels are rich in oil. They have an excellent flavour.
The oil is used in cooking.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows 4-30 m high. The trunk is erect and 10-40 cm across. The crown is dense. The leaves are simple and leathery. They are 8-18 cm long and bright green and shiny on the upper surface. The nut has a very hard shell. The flowers are in hanging groups on the end of very long stalks. The stalks can be 1 m long. The flowers are showy and pink and have both sexes. The fruit have long fruit stalks. The fruit are oval and have a thick fibrous skin. They contain one seed or nut. The fruit are 6-7 cm long and 3-4 cm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows naturally in dryland tropical forest in the central Amazon in Brazil. It grows between 50-400 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The seeds are collected from ripe fruit and the fibrous covering removed. Seed should be planted fresh. In cultivation it is a low spreading tree.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The nut is 75-80% oil.

NOTES

There are 71 Couepia species. They are all in tropical America.

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