PLANT FACT SHEET

Celtis sinensis Pers.

GENUS *Celtis* **FAMILY** Cannabaceae

COMMON NAMES Chinese Hackberry, Chinese nettle-tree, Portuguese Elm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The ripe fruit are eaten fresh. They are also used for jam.
The leaves are boiled and eaten with oil and salt.
The insect galls which form on the tree in China are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree which loses its leaves. It grows 18 m tall. It forks fairly low and the crown is broad and irregular. The bark is smooth and grey. The leaves are dark glossy green above and olive green underneath. They are one sided at the base and they taper to a tip. There are teeth along the edge. The fruit are yellow and turn orange then black.

HABITAT

A tropical and subtropical plant. It is hardy and tolerant of poor conditions. In China it grows between 100-1,500 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 8-12. Mt Lofty Botanical Gardens. In XTBG Yunnan. It grows in Sichuan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is long lived. In China it flowers in March to April and fruits September to October.

NOTES

There are 70-100 Celtis species. They are mostly in the tropics. There are 8-10 species in tropical America. It can become invasive. Also put in the family Ulmaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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