PLANT FACT SHEET

Sterculia excelsa Mart.

GENUS *Sterculia* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Lofty sterculia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds

The seeds are eaten after roasting.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 33 m tall. The trunk is 40-60 cm across. It loses many leaves during the year. The leaves are entire but have 3 lobes on young trees. The flower arrangement is covered with downy hairs. The fruit is a many seeded dry fruit. There are 1 or 2 sections that are kidney shaped. These are 5 cm long by 3.3 cm wide and green but with a brown covering. There are 3-4 seeds in each section. The seeds are embedded in golden yellow prickly hairs.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in rainforest and near marshes and creeks. It is best in a sunny position or in light shade.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from fresh seed. Seeds sprout in 30-40 days. Scratching the seed coat can assist germination. They germinate best with a temperature between 20-30°C.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing.

NOTES

Also put in the family Sterculiaceae.

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