PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Calophyllum inophyllum L.

GENUS *Calophyllum* **FAMILY** Clusiaceae

COMMON NAMES Beauty leaf, Beach Calophyllum

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds - oil, Seeds, Leaves

The oil is edible after refining and removing toxic components.
The ripe fruit and seeds are eaten. The unripe fruit are pickled.
Young leaves are reported as being eaten as a vegetable.
Caution: The seed, sap and leaves are poisonous.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized tree. It grows up to 20 m tall. The branches spread out. The bark is light yellow-grey and smooth. The leaves are opposite and leathery. They are glossy green. The leaves are oval and 10-15 cm long by 4-6 cm wide. They have many fine side veins which come out at right angles to the midrib. The flowering structure is unbranched and they are in the axils of leaves. The flowers are white and have both sexes. They are 2-2.5 cm across. The fruit is round, ending in a point. It is 2.5 cm across and yellowish. It has a woody layer around the seed.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is native to tropical Asia and the Pacific. It often grows near water and near the sea shore. It can tolerate salt spray. It can be near mangroves. It needs sandy well drained soil. It grows wild or cultivated on open waste sites on hills, seashores, sandy wastelands; 100(-200) m altitude in China. It grows up to 400 m above sea level in Fiji. It grows in places with an annual average temperature of 18-33°C. It is damaged by drought and frost. It suits hardiness zones 11-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

They are grown from seed which must be sown fresh. Seeds germinate easily but slowly. Seedlings can be transplanted into the field after 5-6 months.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Young seedlings grow rapidly. The tree grows slowly. The seeds yield oil to 20--30%, but seed kernels to 50-60%.

NOTES

There are about 187-200 Calophyllum species. They are evergreen trees of the tropics. The seed oil is fragrant and sometimes burnt in lamps. It is used in medicine.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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