PLANT FACT SHEET

Abutilon indicum (L.) Sweet

GENUS *Abutilon* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Plains Lanternflower

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds, Vegetable, Flowers, Seeds - oil, Leaves - tea

The roasted seeds are eaten in Nepal. They are also used for flour.
The seeds are a source of an edible oil.
The leaves and flowers are cooked and eaten.
The flowers are also eaten raw. They are also fried.

DESCRIPTION

A small shrub. It can be up to 2-4 m high. The young shoots are covered with short white hairs. Leaves are 10-15 cm long by 5-8 cm wide. The leaves are heart shaped or star shaped and with irregular lobes along the edge. Flowers are 2-3 cm long. They are yellow and occur singly in the leaf axils. The flowers are often crowded towards the ends of branches. The seed capsule is 1.5 cm across and hairy.

HABITAT

It is a tropical and subtropical plant. It suits warm tropical places. It requires well drained soil and does best in a sunny position. It can grow in arid places. It occurs in Asia and Australia. It grows on atolls. In China it grows below 600 m in S China. It suits hardiness zones 10-12. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed or cuttings. It can be pruned.

NOTES

There are about 100-160 Abutilon species. This one is used in medicine.

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