PLANT FACT SHEET

Carissa laxiflora Benth.

GENUS *Carissa* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

A sprawling shrub. It grows 2 m high. The leaves are small. The leaf stalks are 2-5 mm long and 0.8-1 mm wide. The blade is oval and 3-7.5 cm long by 1-5 cm wide. They are rounded at the base. There are 4-5 secondary veins on each side of the midrib. The flowering stalk is at the end of the plant. The flowers are 1-1.2 cm long and 5-7 mm wide. The fruit is round and 1-1.5 cm across. There is a tip at the end. They are black-purple when ripe. There is one seed inside. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows naturally in vine thickets along the foreshore dunes above high water mark. It grows from sea level to 20 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants flower and fruit throughout the year.

NOTES

There about 20-37 Carissa species. All Carissa species bear edible fruit. They grow in the tropics and subtropics.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

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Habitat Management Profile – Saibai Island Appendix C p 115

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/e06e4478-165d-4da7-94a7-c357bb5e6da1