PLANT FACT SHEET

Myroxylon balsamum (L.) Harms

GENUS *Myroxylon* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Balsam of Tolu, Balsam Tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Bark - flavouring, Sap - flavouring, Fruit - flavouring

The fruit are used to flavour rum.
The trunk provides a resin and essential oil used for flavouring chewing gum, baked goods, candies, ice cream and soft drinks.

DESCRIPTION

A tall tree. It can be evergreen or deciduous. It grows 35 m tall. It is stiffly erect. Large trees can have small buttresses. The leaves are mid green and have leaflets along the stalk. There are 3-13 leaflets. These are oval and 9 cm long. They are glossy. The flowers are small and white. They are in hairy racemes. They have a sweet scent. The fruit is a pod 7.5 cm long. It is tear drop shaped and winged. It has one seed.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It is native to Venezuela and Peru. It grows in dry and humid forests. It needs full sun. It grows between 300-700 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

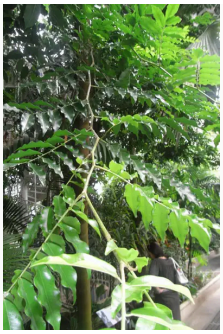
NOTES

There are 2-3 Myroxylum species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/e0b91a2a-8e50-4bfe-89ab-1c58ad214665