PLANT FACT SHEET

Prosopis ruscifolia Griseb.

GENUS *Prosopis* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Algarobo, Pau-de-espinho

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Pods

The pods are cooked and eaten or used as a dry meal. The pods are boiled and crushed and the juice eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 6-16 m tall. The crown is round. It has thorns 3-15 cm long. The trunk is upright and 30-45 cm across. The bark is thick and has cracks along the length. The leaves are compound and twice divided. The leaflets are opposite and has no leaf stalks. There are 2-5 pairs. The fruit is a curved pod. It is 15-30 cm long. There are yellowish purple marks on the ripe pod. There are 10-24 hard seeds.

HABITAT

A subtropical plant. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 1,000 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The seed are removed from the ripe pod. They have a hard seed coat that needs to be broken. Fresh seed are planted and germinate in 1-2 weeks.

NOTES

Also as Mimosaceae.

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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