PLANT FACT SHEET

Phoenix acaulis Buch.-Ham ex Roxb.

GENUS *Phoenix* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Stemless Date palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Palm heart, Starch, Roots

The ripe fruit are eaten. They are also used to make curry.
The tender fruit stalks are eaten.
The palm heart is cooked and eaten.
An edible starch can be extracted from the stem.
The underground leaf stalk (rootstock) is peeled and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A solitary palm. It has a short swollen trunk. This is mostly underground. It is densely covered with the leaf stalk bases. The fronds arch over. They have leaflets along the stalk. The fronds are 1-2 m long. The leaflets are dark green and 30-45 cm long. They are grouped in small bundles. The flowering stalk is 30-60 cm long and often trails on the ground. The fruit are bright red and oval. They have sweet edible flesh.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in tropical and subtropical places. It usually grows on poor stony soils. It grows between 400-1600 m altitude. In Townsville palmetum.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The seed are oval and grooved. They germinate soon after planting.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Seedling growth is slow. In Sikkim fruit are available March to May.

NOTES

There are 13-17 Phoenix species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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