PLANT FACT SHEET

Cecropia peltata L.

GENUS *Cecropia* **FAMILY** Urticaceae

COMMON NAMES Trumpet tree, Cecropia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit, Flowers

The fruit is eaten fresh. The young pods are cooked as a potherb.
The young buds are cooked and eaten.
The young leaves and flowers are used in broth.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized evergreen tree. It can grow 15-20 m high. The trunk can be 50 cm across. The trunk and branches are hollow. The leaves are large and have 7-9 lobes arranged like fingers on a hand. The leaves have lobes which are shield shaped. The leaves are downy underneath and shiny on top. The leaves can be 60 cm across. The flowers are pale yellow and showy. They are in fingered clusters on long stems. They are sweet and edible. The fruit is cylindrical, hollow with soft sweet flesh. They are 12 cm long. They are edible. There are many small seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is native to tropical America. It has moderate drought and cold tolerance. In Costa Rica it grows from sea level to 1,200 m altitude. It is best with a humus-rich, well-drained soil. It suits hardiness zones 10-12. At ECHO.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. They are slow to germinate. They can be grown from cuttings of half ripe wood.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows rapidly.

NOTES

There are 61-75 Cecropia species. They grow in tropical America. Also put in the family Cecropiaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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