PLANT FACT SHEET

Phoenix theophrasti Greuter

GENUS *Phoenix* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Cretan date palm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The fruit are edible but not attractive.

DESCRIPTION

A suckering palm. It grows 12 m tall. It can have one or several slender main trunks. They often branch near the base. The branches have a crown or large leaves. The leaves are silvery green. They are divided into leaflets along the stalk. These leaflets are narrow and taper. There are spines on the leaf bases. The flowers grow among the leaf bases. They are in branched arrangements which arch over. The flowers are greenish-yellow. The fruit occur in large clusters. They are brown when ripe. They are like small dates and 14-16 mm long.

HABITAT

It is a Mediterranean climate plant. It grows in colonies on beaches and rocky, sandy areas. It suits hot dry conditions. It may tolerate some cold. It suits a desert climate.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seed germinate easily and quickly.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing.

NOTES

It is now a rare and protected plant.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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