PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Cassia abbreviata Oliver

GENUS *Cassia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Long-tail cassia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

The leaves are purgative.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 5-15 m tall. The small branches are brown. They have ridges along them. It loses its leaves during the year. The leaves are compound. The leaflets are opposite in 8-10 pairs. The flowers have a scent. The fruit is a dark brown to black pod. It is 20-100 cm long by 1.5-2 cm wide. It has many seeds. The seeds are dark brown and 12 mm long by 10 mm wide and 3 mm thick. They are broadly oval and flattened and enclosed in pulp.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in woodland and can grow on termite mounds. It grows between 1-1,520 m above sea level. It can tolerate drought. It is damaged by frost, especially when young. It can grow in arid places. In Zimbabwe it grows in areas with a rainfall between 700-800 mm per year (var. beareana).

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. Seeds are best soaked in boiling water for 20 minutes or left in warm water overnight then sown. Seeds germinate in 4-10 days. It has a long taproot so is best sown directly into the ground or transplanted early.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows slowly.

NOTES

Also as Caesalpinaceae.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/e5e79159-0456-4eee-a85b-5d2acadf778c