PLANT FACT SHEET

Ebenopsis ebano (Berland.) Barneby & J. W. Grimes

GENUS *Ebenopsis* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Texas ebony

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Pods, Shoots, Seeds

The seeds are eaten after roasting. They are also boiled and eaten.
The seeds are toasted, ground and boiled as a coffee substitute.
The green seed pods are cooked and eaten.
Caution: If eaten in large quantities it can cause a discharge from the urethra that is not harmful.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows 4.5-9 m high and spreads 6 m wide. The crown is dense and spreading. The trunk can be 1.2 m across. The branches are thin and whip like. They have spines. The leaves are dark green. The leaves are twice divided and there are 8-18 pairs of pinnae. There are up to 50 pairs of pinnules on each pinnae. The flowers are like wattle and creamy-yellow. They are fragrant. They occur in sprays. The fruit are seed pods. The pods are flattened. The seed pods are brown and woody and 8-15 cm long by 3-4 cm wide.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It can tolerate temperatures down to -12°C. Once established plants are drought tolerant. They can grow in acid soils but are best in alkaline soils. It grows in coastal plains up to 1,000 m above sea level in Indonesia. It suits hardiness zones 9-11. In XTBG Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. Seeds need to be soaked in warm water for 12-24 hours.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is slow growing.

NOTES

Also as Mimosaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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