PLANT FACT SHEET

Abutilon otocarpum F.Muell.

GENUS *Abutilon* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Lantern flower, Desert Chinese Lantern, Desert Lantern

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds

The seeds are eaten. They have a nutty flavour and can be eaten without preparation.

DESCRIPTION

It is a small shrub. It grows up to 50 cm high. The young shoots are covered with white soft hairs. The leaves are 1-5 cm long by 1-3 cm wide. The edges of the leaves are scalloped. The leaves are thick and dark green. The flowers are 1-1.5 cm long and yellow. The seed capsule is 1 cm long and hairy. It has a depression near where the fruit is attached to the stalk which helps distinguish this species form similar ones. The seeds are curved and wrinkled. The seeds are reasonably large in size and easily collected.

HABITAT

It grows in tropical and subtropical places. It grows in desert areas often near stream banks and flood plains. It suits a hot dry climate. It needs good drainage and does not do well in humid places. It can grow in slight shade. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed. Fire helps the germination and growth of this plant.

NOTES

There are about 100-160 Abutilon species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/e7faf8eb-f226-43b0-89ff-2a29f166088f