PLANT FACT SHEET

Senegalia rugata (Lam.) Britton & Rose

GENUS *Senegalia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Soap-Pod

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Leaves, Flowers, Vegetable

The acid fruit are used in Philippine cooking to give a sour flavour. They are roasted and eaten. The leaves and seeds are put into hot sour soup. They can also be curried with salted fish and coconut milk. The sour leaves are used as a substitute for tamarind. The seeds are edible after roasting.
The young leaves are used in chutneys. They are also used in soups. The young shoots are used to make pickles or cooked as a vegetable. The flowers are used as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A thorny spreading shrub or tree. It grows to 7.5-18 m tall. There can be several stems and these can be up to 10 cm across. It has scattered curved prickles on the branches. The bark is light grey. The leaves have 7-11 pairs of branches and these have 17-37 pairs of leaflets. These are oblong and 4-9 mm long by 0.8-2 mm wide. The flowers are in heads 1 cm across. The flower stalks are 2-3 cm long. The flower buds are purple or dark red. The flowers are cream or white. The pods are flat and thick. They are 5 cm long by 1.7 cm wide. They have about 7 seeds. The seeds are 1.2-1.9 cm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Papua New Guinea it grows from 500-1050 m altitude. It occurs naturally in rainforest and grassland. It is a tropical plant. It needs a frost free location. It requires good drainage. It prefers dry conditions and tolerates drought. It is found in dry forests. It grows in Yunnan in China.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seeds. The seedlings can be transplanted.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants flower throughout the year. Fruit are on trees from February to March.

NOTES

There are about 1,350 Acacia species. Over 1,000 occur in Australia. The pods of this one are used for soap. Also as Mimosaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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