PLANT FACT SHEET

Bombax costatum Pellgr. & Vuillet

GENUS *Bombax* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Red-flowered silk cotton tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Fruit, Leaves

The flowers are dried and used in sauces.
The young fruit are cut and dried and then used in dishes. They are used in soup.
The young leaves are cooked and used as a vegetable. They are dried and pounded.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 3-15 m high. The trunk can be 1 m around. It loses its leaves during the year. The bark is grey and deeply cracked. The bark has triangular ridges with thorns. The small branches are densely hairy when young. The leaves are compound and have leaflets like fingers. They are densely hairy when young. There are 5-7 leaflets. They are 6-13 cm long by 3-6 cm wide. They are oval but rounded and taper to a short tip. The stalk is 7-20 cm long. The flowers are produced when the tree is leafless. The flowers are single and erect on the branches. They are orange to red. They are 4-7 cm long. The fruit are long or rounded and black or dark brown. They are 6-16 cm long by 4-6 cm wide. They break into 5 pieces. The seeds are black. They are in white kapok.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. A savannah tree. It grows in the Sahel. It grows in open savannah woodland especially in rocky places. It can grow in arid places. In Brisbane Botanical Gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seed need treatment before planting. They can also be grown from suckers.

NOTES

There are about 8-20 Bombax species.
Also put in the family Bombacaceae. In the subfamily Bombacoideae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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