PLANT FACT SHEET

Simarouba amara Aubl.

GENUS *Simarouba* **FAMILY** Simaroubaceae

COMMON NAMES Paradise tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds - oil, Bark - drink

The ripe fruit are eaten raw.
The seed kernels yield an oil used in cooking and the manufacture of margarine.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows 42 m tall. The crown is broad. There are flushes of new growth. The trunk is 50-60 cm across. The leaves are compound and 60 cm long. There are 9-16 leaflets and these are 3-11 cm long by 12-45 mm wide. The leaflets towards the top are smaller. Male and female flowers are on separate trees. The flowers are small and pale yellow. The fruit are 17 mm long and have large seeds. The seeds are 10-14 mm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in dry soil. It grows below 1,000 m above sea level. It grows in rainforests and savannah. It can grow in arid places. It needs to be in a sunny position.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fairly fast growing. A tree can yield 15-30 kg of nuts. These yield 2.5-5 kg of oil. It is only a short lived tree.

NOTES

There are 6 Simarouba species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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