PLANT FACT SHEET

Latania lontaroides (Gaertn.) H. E. Moore

GENUS *Latania* **FAMILY** Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Red latern palm, Commerson's latania

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten. (They have a bad smell.)

DESCRIPTION

A palm. It has a single stem and grows 12 m tall. The trunk is 25 cm across. It has rings from the scars of fallen leaves. The leaf stalks is 1-1.5 m long. The leaves are large and fan shaped. The leaves are round and pointed at the tips. They are 2-3 m long by 3 m wide. Male and female flowers are on separate plants. The fruit are oval and 7 cm long. They have a single seed.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It needs to be in a sunny location. They need full sun and well-drained soil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The plants can be grown from fresh seed. The seed may take 4 months to germinate.

NOTES

There are 3 Latania species. They grow in the Mascarenes near Madagascar.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

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Hedrick, U.P., 1919, (Ed.), Sturtevant's edible plants of the world. p 371 (As Latania commersonii)

Syst. nat. 2(2):1035. 1792 (As Latania commersonii)

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/ec587bb6-078f-4c52-912e-f2ac7e4548e0