PLANT FACT SHEET

Kirkia acuminata Oliver

GENUS *Kirkia* **FAMILY** Kirkiaceae

COMMON NAMES White syringa, Common kirkia, Mountain kirkia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Roots - water, Fruit

The swollen root is chewed to quench thirst.

DESCRIPTION

It is a deciduous tree. It grows 6-16 m tall. It has a clean trunk. The branches are straight. The bark is grey and smooth when young but becomes corrugated in old age. The leaves are 10-45 cm long. The leaves have 6-10 pairs of leaflets. They are larger towards the tip. The leaflets are 2-8 cm long by 1-3 cm wide. The flowering stalks are branched and hairy with several flowers. The flowers are pale green to cream and of 2 forms some being male and others female. The fruit are 1-2 cm long and about 1 cm wide. They are woody.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in woodland on well drained soils. It is usually at about 1,200 m altitude but can grow up to 1,500 m altitude. It can grow on rocky soils and in a range of other soil types. They are drought resistant but damaged by frost. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. Seeds are sown in sand. They germinate in 8-14 days. Seedlings can be planted out at the 2 leaf stage. It can also be grown from large cuttings of branches.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants are fast growing.

NOTES

It is also put in the family Simaroubaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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