PLANT FACT SHEET

Canavalia papuana Merr. & Perry

GENUS *Canavalia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Wild Jack bean

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds - coffee, Seeds, Pods

The seeds have been used to roast and also to make coffee.
The young pods are also cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A climbing bean up to 1-4 m tall. The stems are thin and wiry. They do not have hairs except at the nodes. The leaves have 3 leaflets. The leaf stalks are 4-10 cm long. They have a channel on the top surface. The leaflets are 10-13 cm long by 5-8 cm wide. The leaflets are thin, but oval and pointed at the top. The flowers are about 3 cm long. They are purple with a curved blunt keel. The flowers are in clusters of 10-20 flowers on flower stalks 10-14 cm long. The pods are 6-8 cm long by 1.5-2 cm wide. They are oblong and have a keel. The seeds are dark brown and oblong. They are 1.3 cm long by 8 mm wide. The seed scar is about 1 cm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in warm, moist coastal districts. It is very cold sensitive. It needs well drained soil in a sunny position. It grows from 5 to 1250 m altitude in Papua New Guinea. In tropical Australia it grows from sea level to 630 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

NOTES

There are about 50 Canavalia species.

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