PLANT FACT SHEET

Brabejum stellatifolium L.

GENUS *Brabejum* **FAMILY** Proteaceae

COMMON NAMES Bitter almond, Hottentot's almond

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Nuts - coffee, seeds, Fruit

The fruit of the tree is eaten.
The seed were well soaked to remove the bitterness then roasted and used in coffee.
CAUTION: The seeds are poisonous unless well treated.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree or shrub. It grows to 7.5 m tall. It has a thick greyish brown bark. It has spreading branches. The leaves are long and sword shaped. They are 15 cm long by 2.5 cm wide. They are arranged in rings of six leaves. The leaves have irregular teeth along the edge and a prominent midrib. The young leaves are soft and golden. The flowers are white and hairy. They have a sweet scent. They occur in dense clusters in the axils of leaves. The fruit is 2-4 cm across and one seeded. The seed is enclosed in a golden velvety coat.

HABITAT

It is a Mediterranean climate plant. Trees grow along streams. It needs moist, well drained soil. It suits hardiness zones 8-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from fresh seed or cuttings. The trees form a good hedge.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The early growth is fast.

NOTES

There is only one Brabejum species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

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