PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Triadica sebifera (L.) Small

GENUS *Triadica* **FAMILY** Euphorbiaceae

COMMON NAMES Candleberry-tree, Chinese tallowtree, Popcorntree, Vegetable tallow, White wax-berry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds - oil, Fruit

The seed oil can be used in food after refining.
The seed flour can also be converted by refining into flour fit for eating.
The outer waxy covering of the seed has been used as a substitute for lard or cacao butter

DESCRIPTION

A tree which loses its leaves. It grows 6-9 m high and spreads 4.5-6 m wide. It has a rounded crown. The leaves are 5-10 cm long. They are rounded or almost diamond shaped and dull green. The leaves turn orange or red in autumn. The flowers are yellow-green. The fruit are about the size of peas. The fruit splits open to reveal 3 seeds. These are covered with a layer of pure wax. The seeds are 6 mm across.

HABITAT

It grows in forests on limestone below 100 m above sea level in China. It suits hardiness zones 8-11. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or cuttings.

NOTES

There are 3 Triadica species. The oil is used in medicine and for soap.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/f3508ceb-9467-4e58-b94d-3fc7e8683caf