PLANT FACT SHEET

Cajanus scarabaeoides (L.) Thouars

GENUS *Cajanus* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Showy pigeon pea

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Pods, Seeds, Vegetable, Tea

The young fruit pods are cooked as a vegetable.
The seeds are eaten cooked like beans. They are used as a substitute for pigeon pea.
The pods are boiled in water with salt and the seeds eaten after boiling.
The young leaves are cooked and eaten as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A slender trailing herb. The root is woody. The stems have a rusty red covering of hairs. The leaves are divided into 3 leaflets. The leaflets are oval. The leaflets are 1-7 cm long by 1-3 cm wide. They are covered with dense grey hairs. The flowers are in clusters of 2-6. They are yellow and crimson. They are on a short stalk in the axils of leaves. The fruit is a pod 1.5-2.5 cm long by 5-7 mm wide. It is covered with fine silky hairs. There are grooves across the pod between the seeds. There are 3-6 seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in Nepal to 1000 m altitude. It is drought resistant. It grows in hedges and open forests. In southern China it grows between 100-1,500 m above sea level. in Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

NOTES

There are 37 Cajanus species.

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