PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Manilkara kauki* (L.) Dubard

**GENUS** *Manilkara* **FAMILY** Sapotaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Palai tree

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Fruit

The ripe fruit are eaten raw or cooked. They can be used for making syrup.

## DESCRIPTION

A shrub or tree. It grows 2-10 m tall and spreads 5-12 m wide. The young growth has silver or rusty hairs. The leaves are 8-15 cm long by 3-6 cm wide. They are oval or sword shaped. They are dark green and shiny above and silvery or rusty underneath. They are thick and leathery. The flowers are white and 1.4 cm across. They have a scent. They grow in clusters in the axils of leaves. The fruit are 2.5-4 cm long by 0.6-0.8 cm wide. They are rounded and orange to red. The seeds are 1.5-2.5 cm long and brown. The fruit are edible.

## HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It suits the tropical lowlands. It grows in coastal areas, often close to the sea. It often grows on rocky headlands. It can tolerate salt laden winds. It needs very good drainage and a sunny position. It can tolerate a range of soils. It can tolerate light frosts.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants are grown from fresh seed.

## NOTES

There are about 75 Manilkara species.

## PICTURES

Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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