



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.

Jatropha multifida L.

GENUS *Jatropha* FAMILY Euphorbiaceae

COMMON NAMES Coral Plant

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Roots, Fruit, Oil

CAUTION: The seeds are poisonous.

Young fruit can be eaten.

The tuberous roots are eaten roasted.

The young leaves are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tree like shrub. It is succulent and keeps growing from year to year. It grows to 7 m high and spread to 4 m across. The stem is simple and has few branches. The stem is stocky and 3-6 cm thick. The leaves are rounded and with 7-15 lobes. This means the leaves are finely divided. The leaves are 20-40 cm across and leaflets 4-8 cm across. The flowers are small and bright red. They are on long stalks and many occur together. The flowers are 5 mm across. The fruit is a capsule 3-4 cm across. They contain up to 3 seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. Seed need temperatures above 24°C and plants need temperatures above 10°C. Plants are damaged by frost. They need well drained fertile soil. It suits hardiness zones 10-12. In XTBG Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. They can also be grown from cuttings.

NOTES

It is mostly grown as an ornamental. There are 100 *Jatropha* species in tropical America.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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