



PLANT FACT SHEET

Senna hirsuta (Linn.) Irwin & Barneby

GENUS *Senna* FAMILY Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Hairy cassia, Woolly senna

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds - coffee, Vegetable

Seeds used as coffee. They are also roasted with salt and eaten.

The young leaves are eaten steamed with food.

DESCRIPTION

A small shrub. It grows 0.2-2.5 m tall. It has hairy stems and bad smelling leaves. The leaf stalk has finger-like glands just above the base. The leaflets are in 3-5 pairs. They are oval and 6-9 cm long by 2-3.5 cm wide. They are hairy. The flower clusters are short and in the axils of leaves. The petals are orange-yellow. They are 1-1.7 cm long. The fruit is a slightly curved pod. They are 8-18 cm long by 3-7 mm wide. The pod is flattened. The pods are densely hairy. The seeds are dark green and lie at right angles to the long axis of the pod. They are 2.5-3 mm long by 2 mm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows from 30-60 m altitude in Papua New Guinea. In Indonesia it grows up to 700 m above sea level. In West Africa it grows in the lowland rain-forest belt. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

In India seeds are produced October to December.

NOTES

There are 100 Cassia species. This group has been revised to a smaller more consistent group. Also as Caesalpinaceae.

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