



PLANT FACT SHEET

Crateva tapia L.

GENUS *Crateva* FAMILY Capparaceae

COMMON NAMES Gally Pear, Garlic Pear Tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Spice, Stem

The fruit can be eaten. They have a garlic taste.
They are used for drinks and for liqueurs.

DESCRIPTION

A tree which grows 5-25 m high. The bark of the trunk is grey and smooth. The leaves have 3 leaflets. The leaflets are elliptic and taper to a point. The leaflets are 5-15 cm long and 3-7 cm wide. The flowers are in a cluster. They have a smell. The petals are enlarged and creamy white. The stamens are purple. The fruit are 4-5 cm across and greenish orange when ripe. The outer layer is leathery. The flesh is whitish and with many seeds. The seeds are 0.8 cm across. The fruit have a bad smell but are edible.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in damp areas near the seashore. It grows from sea level to 1200 m altitude. In Argentina it grows below 500 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 10-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. The seed need cold treatment. Plants can also be grafted. The seed from ripe fruit germinate in 2-3 weeks.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is very fast growing.

NOTES

There are 6 *Crateva* species. This is possibly now in the Brassicaceae family.

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