



PLANT FACT SHEET

Flacourtia indica (Burm.f.) Merrill

GENUS *Flacourtia* FAMILY Salicaceae

COMMON NAMES Governor's plum

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Vegetable, Tea

The fleshy pulp of the fruit is eaten raw when ripe.

They are also cooked and eaten. They are used as a vegetable with 'tur'dal.

They can be used to make jelly and jam.

Fruit can be dried and stored.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 5-15 m high. The trunk is crooked and low branched and armed with scattered slender spines. The leaves are alternate, pointed at the base and rounded at the tip. The edges of the leaves toothed with rounded lobes. Leaves are dark green on top and pale green underneath. They are 6-17 cm long and 3-7 cm wide. Male and female trees occur. The flowers are small and white, occur singly or in pairs in the axils of leaves or near the ends of short branches. The fruit are rounded, fleshy, purple or nearly black. They are smooth and about 1 cm across. The flesh is yellowish, juicy and acid. There are 6 to 10 small flattened seeds inside. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the lowlands. They are found in the Philippines in Cagayan, Isabela, Tarlac, Zambales, Bataan, Rizal and Mindoro. They thrive in dry shrubby areas at low altitudes. Trees grow in coastal areas and up to 700 m or higher. In Africa it grows from sea level to 2,400 m above sea level. They suit drier areas. In Yunnan it grows between 700-1500 m altitude. It grows in subtropical broadleaved evergreen forest. It can grow in arid places. It also grows on limestone. It grows in Miombo woodland in Africa. It suits hardiness zones 10-12. In XTBG Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Trees are normally grown from seed. Because the seeds have a hard seed coat it helps to scratch the seed to help germination. Cuttings can be used. Air layering can be used. Groups of trees containing both male and female trees need to be grown from root suckers or by budding. Some kinds are self pollinating. A spacing of 12-16 m apart is needed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In India Rajasthan, fruit are available Feb - May. Fruit matures in 60-90 days from pollination. A tree can produce 2-3 kg of fruit.

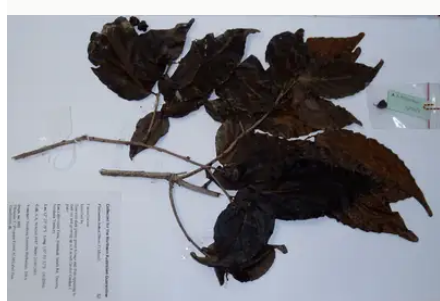
NOTES

There are about 17 *Flacourtia* species. Also put in the Flacourtiaceae family.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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