



PLANT FACT SHEET

Spondias malayana Kosterm.

GENUS *Spondias* FAMILY Anacardiaceae

COMMON NAMES Malayan ambarella tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Flowers

The fruit are edible but often have an astringent, acid and turpentine flavour.
The leaves and flowers can be used for acid flavouring of food.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 10-15 m tall. It can be 40 m tall. The trunk is straight and smooth but with deep cracks along it. It is 30-35 cm across. Trunks can be 150 cm across. It does not have buttresses. The leaves are arranged in spirals and grouped together. They are 15-35 cm long with 5-6 or more leaflets. The leaflets are papery. The leaflets are almost opposite and oblong. They are 2.5-5 cm long by 5-13 cm wide. They are unequal on each side and taper to a short tip. The flowers are in a stiff panicle in the axils of leaves. This is 24 cm long. The fruit is broadly oval and 3-5 cm long by 2.5-3.5 cm wide. It is orange-yellow with a juicy pulp. There are 1-2 seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in places with a distinct dry season. It is often on poor infertile soils in dry forest. It grows up to 700 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. It can be grown from branch cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The fruit occur in the dry season.

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