PLANT FACT SHEET

Sterculia balanghas Linn.

GENUS *Sterculia* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Kavalam

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds

The seeds are roasted and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree. It grows 15 m tall. The bark is light brown. The leaves are 12-22 cm long by 7-12 cm wide. They are in rings. The young leaves have golden brown star shaped hairs. The leaf stalks are 4 cm long and swollen at the ends. The flowers are 1.5 cm wide. They are pink or green. They hang in slender clusters. The fruit are 5-9 cm long by 2-4 cm wide. They are pale yellow but turn orange.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in tropical Asia. In Thailand it grows between 10-1,600 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Thailand it flowers January to March and fruits February to June.

NOTES

Also put in the family Sterculiaceae.

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