PLANT FACT SHEET

Grewia flava DC.

GENUS *Grewia* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Brandy bush, Raisin bush

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Gum, Roots - coffee

The fruit are eaten either fresh or after being pulped in a mortar. They are made into porridge. They are used for jam and juice.
They are also used to make brandy and beer.
The fruit are dried and eaten with dried locusts. The sun dried fruit can be stored.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub which loses its leaves during the year. It is spreading, branched and twiggy. It can grow up to 4 m tall. Young branches are grey and hairy. The leaves are pale green and rough. They are 1.3-8 cm long and 2.5 cm wide. The tips are rounded and the base is narrowed. The base is unequal sided. The edges have fine teeth. The flowers are small and star shaped. They have narrow yellow petals. They are usually produced singly in the axils of leaves. The fruit have 1 or 2 lobes. They are hairy and red when ripe. They are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in dry bush regions. It is often on sandy or limestone soils. It is resistant to drought and frost. It grows in area with an annual rainfall between 50-600 mm. It grows between 150-1,830 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. Seeds must be cleaned and dried in the shade. They are soaked in hot water and left overnight. Seeds do not germinate easily. They take about 24 days to germinate. Seedlings should be transplanted at the 2 leaf stage.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing.

NOTES

Fruit are high in sugar. There are about 200 Grewia species. They are mostly tropical. The fruit of most may be edible. The dried fruit are about 64% sugar and 4 % protein. These were in the Sparrmanniaceae and the Tiliaceae.

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