



PLANT FACT SHEET

Phoenix zeylanica Trimen

GENUS *Phoenix* FAMILY Arecaceae

COMMON NAMES Ceylon Date

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Pith - starch

The fruit are sweet and edible.

The pith of the stem can be used for starch in times of scarcity.

DESCRIPTION

A slender palm. It has a single trunk. The trunk is 6 m high and 20-30 cm across. It is densely covered with old leaf bases. The crown is compact. The leaves are sharp and tend to hang down. The leaves are 2 m long. The leaflets are many and light green and stiff. They are sharply pointed. Leaflets are well spaced along the midrib. They arise in different planes. This gives the leaves a feathery appearance. The flowering stalks are much branched and spreading. The flowers are cream to yellow. The fruit are red to purplish-black. They are oval and 12 mm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows near the sea.

NOTES

There are 17 *Phoenix* species.

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