











Diospyros lotus Date Plum PFAF Plant Database

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Diospyros lotus - L.

Common Name	Date Plum
Family	Ebenaceae
USDA hardiness	7-9
Known Hazards	None known
Habitats	Mixed mountain forests to 1500 metres in China[74].
Range	E. Asia - China, Japan. Himalayas.
Edibility Rating	     
Other Uses	
Weed Potential	No
Medicinal Rating	 
Care	

Summary



<http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/????:S64>



Physical Characteristics



Diospyros lotus is a deciduous Tree growing to 9 m (29ft) by 6 m (19ft) at a medium rate.

It is hardy to zone (UK) 5 and is not frost tender. It is in flower in July, and the seeds ripen from Oct to November. The flowers are dioecious (individual flowers are either male or female, but only one sex is to be found on any one plant so both male and female plants must be grown if seed is required)The plant is not self-fertile.

Suitable for: light (sandy), medium (loamy) and heavy (clay) soils and prefers well-drained soil. Suitable pH: acid, neutral and basic (alkaline) soils. It can grow in semi-shade (light woodland) or no shade. It prefers moist soil.

Synonyms

Habitats

Woodland Garden Secondary; Sunny Edge;

Edible Uses

Edible Parts: [Fruit](#).

Edible Uses:

Fruit - raw or cooked[2, 3]. The fruit has an exquisitely rich flavour when it is fully ripe (almost at the point of going bad), but it is very harsh and astringent before then[K]. The fruit may not ripen properly in a cool summer, though if it is frosted it normally develops a very good flavour[K]. The fruit can be dried, when it acquires a date-like flavour[61, 183]. The fruit can also be harvested in the autumn, preferably after a frost, and bletted[183]. (This is a process where the fruit is kept in a cool place and only eaten when it is very soft and almost at the point of going rotten). The fruit of trees in a fairly sunny position at Kew ripens on the tree in most years and produces fertile seed[K]. The fruit contains about 1.9% protein, 0.2% fat, 47.7% carbohydrate, 1% ash[179]. Fruits are about the size of a large cherry, they turn from yellow to blue-black when fully ripe[183]. The fruit is about 20mm in diameter[200].

Medicinal Uses

Plants For A Future can not take any responsibility for any adverse effects from the use of plants. Always seek advice from a professional before using a plant medicinally.

[Febrifuge](#); [Sedative](#).

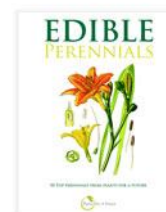
The fruit is febrifuge[178, 240]. It is also used to promote secretions[240]. The seed is regarded in China as being sedative[240].

Other Uses

[Rootstock](#); [Wood](#).

Sometimes used as a rootstock for D. kaki[183]. Wood - durable, pliable, resists rot. Used for construction, general carpentry etc[74].

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Cultivation details

Requires a good deep loamy soil in sun or light shade[200]. When being grown for its fruit, the tree should be given a warm, sheltered, sunny position[K]. It dislikes very acid or wet and poorly drained soils[200]. Dormant plants are very cold-hardy, but the young growth in spring, even on mature plants, is frost-tender and so it is best to grow the plants in a position sheltered from the early morning sun[K]. Dioecious, but the female tree can produce seedless fruits in the absence of a pollinator[1]. It is likely that unfertilized fruits are more astringent than fertilized fruits since this is the case with *D. kaki*[K]. Plants have a long tap root and are difficult to transplant[200], it is best to plant them out in their permanent position as soon as possible and to give protection overwinter for the first year or two[K]. This species is sometimes cultivated for its edible fruit in Italy and E. Asia, there are some named varieties[142, 183].

Propagation

Seed - best sown in a cold frame as soon as it is ripe[113, 200]. Stored seed requires a period of cold-stratification and should be sown as early in the year as possible[78]. It usually germinates in 1 - 6 months at 15°C[175]. Pot up the young seedlings as soon as they are large enough to handle into fairly deep pots and plant them out into their permanent positions in early summer. Give them some protection from winter cold for their first year or two outdoors. Cuttings of half-ripe wood, July/August in a frame[200]. Layering in spring[200].

Other Names

Found In

Weed Potential

Right plant wrong place. We are currently updating this section. Please note that a plant may be invasive in one area but may not in your area so it's worth checking.

Conservation Status

IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants Status :



Related Plants

Latin Name	Common Name	Edibility Rating	Medicinal Rating
Diospyros celebica	Indonesian Ebony, black ebony, makassar-ebenholts	2	0
Diospyros konzattii	Zapote negro mont's, zapotillo.	4	0
Diospyros crassiflora	Benin Ebony	0	2
Diospyros digyna	Black Sapote, Chocolate Pudding Tree	4	1
Diospyros ebenum	Ebony, Ceylon Ebony, Mauritius Ebony, Ebony Persimmon	1	2
Diospyros kaki	Persimmon, Japanese persimmon	4	3
Diospyros malabarica	Indian Persimmon, Gaub, Timbiri, Mountain ebony	1	3
Diospyros mespiliformis	West African Ebony, Monkey guava, jackalberry	4	3
Diospyros mun	Mun Ebony, Vietnamese Ebony	0	0
Diospyros quaesita	Calamander, kalu mediriya	0	2
Diospyros tessellaria	Black ebony, Mauritian ebony	2	0
Diospyros texanum	Black Persimmon	2	0
Diospyros virginiana	American Persimmon, Common persimmon, Persimmon	5	1

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