

Salvadora persica

(Toothbrush tree)

The toothbrush tree is a small tree or shrub that can go up to 3 meters, widely distributed from Africa through Arabia to China. It was found native in a few places in UAE found but widely cultivated in farms and along streets as wind barriers. The root bark of the tree is light brown and the inner surfaces are white, the odor is like cress and its taste is warm and pungent. The fibrous branches have been used as toothbrushes by many Islamic communities. The leaves and the flowers are small. The fruits are small, fleshy, red berries.

Young stems are used as toothbrushes, leaves are used as a mouthwash and for tooth and gum problems, the trunk an antibiotic which suppress growth of bacteria and the formation of plaque in the mouth. The roots are used for general body pain, gonorrhoea, back pains, chest diseases, and stomach aches. Latex from the bark is used for treating sores. Seeds are used as a tonic and seed oil is used on the skin for rheumatism.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Bois d'arak, Mésuak

Arak, Miswak, Souwak, Seawak, Lushlush :**Arabic Name**

Pronunciation: sal-va-DOR-a PER-see-kuh

Plant Type: Tree

Origin: UAE

Heat Zones:

Hardiness Zones: 10, 11

Uses: Hedge, Mass Planting, Medicinal

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Slow

Tree Shape: Spreading, Weeping

Height at Maturity: 5 to 8 m

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Opposite

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Blade: Less than 5

Leaf Margins: Entire

Leaf Scent:

Color(growing season): Green

Flower

Flower Size Range: 3 - 7

Flower Color: Green, Yellow

Seasons: Spring, Summer

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Fruit

Fruit Type: Berry

Fruit Size Range: 0 - 1.5

Fruit Colors: Red

Seasons: Spring, Summer

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Good

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Alkaline

Water Requirements: High

Light Requirements: Full, Part

Management

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No

Edible Parts:

Plant Propagations: Seed

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