

Ziziphus jujuba

(Chinese Date, Jujube)

Small deciduous tree or large shrub which bears edible fruit. Upright and oval with dropping branches habitat. Usually it grows as a multi-stemmed tree but can be trained into one clear trunk. Glossy, dark green leaves turns yellow at fall. The plant has spines. Mid summer it bears a pear-shaped deep red/ brown fruit which is edible and are best eaten fresh or made into preserves. Fruits soften after they turn red, developing a sweet flavor. Ripe fruits are excellent dried, candied, or in preserves. The tree grows best in full sun and loamy soil but it can tolerate cold, heat, drought even salt. For the best fruiting the tree needs some cold winter month to rest.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Jujube ou Datte Chinoise

Arabic Name: سدر جبلي

Pronunciation: ZIZ-ih-fuss joo-JOO-buh

Plant Type: Tree

Origin: China and Southeast Asia

Heat Zones: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

Hardiness Zones: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Uses: Screen, Windbreak, Edible

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Moderate

Tree Shape: Round, oval

Canopy Symmetry: Irregular

Canopy Density: Open

Canopy Texture: Fine

Height at Maturity: 5 to 8 m

Spread at Maturity: 3 to 5 meters

Time to Ultimate Height: 10 to 20 Years

Notes

The dropping fruits and leaves might be a litter problem. Choose a spineless variety.

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Leaf Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate

Leaf Venation: Bowed

Leaf Persistence: Deciduous

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: Less than 5

Leaf Shape: Ovate

Leaf Margins: Serrulate, Crenate

Leaf Textures: Glossy, Medium

Leaf Scent: No Fragrance

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Yellow

Flower

Flower Showiness: False

Flower Size Range: 1.5 - 3

Flower Type: Cyme

Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)

Flower Scent: Pleasant

Flower Color: Yellow, White

Seasons: Spring

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked, Can be trained to one trunk

Trunk Esthetic Values: Not Showy

Fruit

Fruit Type: Drupe

Fruit Showiness: True

Fruit Size Range: 3 - 7

Fruit Colors: Brown

Seasons: Spring

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Fruit Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Good

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline

Water Requirements: Moderate, Low

Light Requirements: Full, Part

Management

Toxity: No

Invasive Potential: No

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No

Pruning Requirement: Needed, to develop a strong structure

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: Yes

Surface Rooting: No

Life Span: 25-50 years

Edible Parts: Fruit

Plant Propagations: Seed, Grafting, Offset

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Bark Image