# FRUIT AND NUTS OF ZIMBABWE

PRACTICAL WAYS OF GROWING LOCAL FOOD PLANTS AND DOING IT WELL







A project of the Rotary Club of Devonport North and District 9830

#### Fruit and nuts of Zimbabwe



Food Plant Solutions produces educational materials to enable people to understand the nutritional value of local food plants and increase awareness of highly nutritious plants that are adapted to the local environment. Some of these plants are under-utilised species and many are superior to imported foods and plants. Food Plant Solutions produces these materials because every minute of every day, five children under the age of five die from malnutrition.

We welcome and encourage your support.

Food Plant Solutions - A project of the Rotary Club of Devonport North & Rotary District 9830.

This booklet is based on information from the Food Plants International (FPI) database, "Edible Plants of the World", developed by Tasmanian agricultural scientist Bruce French.

# Zimbabwe - a country of fabulous fruit











## Fruit tastes good and keeps us healthy

Everybody should eat some fruit every day.

Fruit provides minerals, vitamins and other important nutrients that everybody needs to stay healthy and well.



Good gardeners and farmers plant several kinds of fruit trees.







#### Fruit for hot humid climates



Fruit to be enjoyed by all.

Some grow quickly.

Some need to be planted for the future.



Many are seasonal.





## Enjoy fruit to enjoy a good life

- Fruit adds flavour to life.
- Fruit is often rich in vitamins.
- Fruit makes good, quick snacks.
- Fruit is fun.



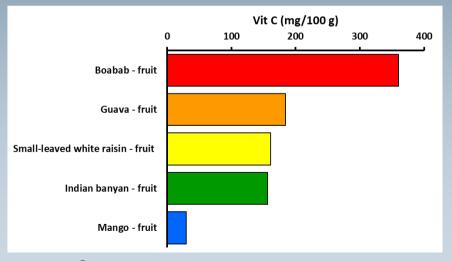
We are meant to enjoy the exciting flavours and textures of an amazing variety of tropical fruit.

#### Vitamin C in fruit



# Vitamin C is important for helping us to avoid sickness





#### Vitamin A in fruit

Vitamin A is very important for eyesight and fighting disease, particularly in infants, young children and pregnant women.

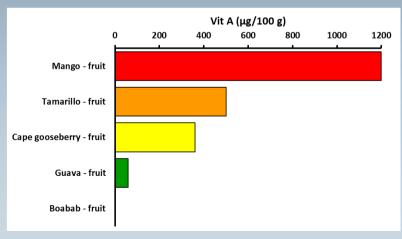
People who are short of Vitamin A have trouble seeing at night.



In plants, this chemical occurs in a form that has to be converted

into Vitamin A in our bodies.





# Indian banyan



The figs are eaten fresh. They can also be dried.



Ficus benghalensis

#### **Small-leaved white raisin**



Grewia tenax

Ripe fruit are eaten fresh and raw.

Fruit can be dried and eaten later.

#### Guava

Fruit are rich in Vitamin C.

Trees grow easily and should be near houses so children can enjoy the fruit.

Psidium guajava







## Mango

Ripe fruit are eaten raw. Unripe fruit is pickled.

Seeds can be eaten cooked.







Magnifera indica

#### Boabab



Adansonia digitata

The fruit pulp is eaten raw. It is also used for a drink.



The young leaves are eaten as a cooked vegetable. The shoots of germinating seeds are eaten.



#### **Tamarillo**



The fruit is eaten raw or cooked. The fruit can be boiled, stewed, grilled, baked or pickled.



Cyphomandra betacea



#### **Zimbabwe** - nuts and seeds







# **Nuts** - nutritious, storable, tasty and rich in protein, vitamins and minerals

- A seasonal variation in the diet.
- Often a storable reserve food.
- Often loved by children.
- Cheaper and better than bought snack foods.





#### Mongongo nut



Schinziophyton rautanenii

The nuts are eaten raw, dried, cooked, whole or pounded and mixed with other ingredients to make a variety of dishes.



#### **Peanut**

The seed can be dried and stored for later use.

They are nutritious and can be roasted and eaten as snacks.

Peanuts can improve the soil whilst providing food.



Arachis hypogaea



#### **Cashew**



The nut is eaten after roasting.





Anacardium occidentale

#### **Baobab**

The seeds of the baobab are high in energy.

They can be eaten fresh or dried and ground into flour.





Adansonia digitata



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Review, layout and formatting - Tom Goninon, John McPhee

For further details contact us at: <a href="mailto:info@foodplantsolutions.org">info@foodplantsolutions.org</a>, website: <a href="mailto:www.foodplantsolutions.org">www.foodplantsolutions.org</a>,

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# **Image acknowledgements**

Most images used in this publication are drawn from the Food Plants International database. Acknowledgement is given for images of the following plants sourced from the internet.

Scientific name	Common name	Image URL
Annacardium occidentale	Cashew nut	https://blogs.extension.iastate.edu/answerline/2021/04/13/cashews-not-really-a-nut/
Schinziophyton rautanenii	Mongongo nut	http://zambiaflora.com/speciesdata/image-display.php?species_id=135650ℑ_id=2 https://www.zimbabweflora.co.zw/speciesdata/images/13/135650-5.jpg
Adansonia digitata	Boabab	https://tropical.theferns.info/plantimages/sized/a/9/a941320ae66e8c6826d98e38ec6a6f6b60ec2160_960px.jpg https://tropical.theferns.info/plantimages/sized/9/2/9294a2e9c584e1c83505ce9f33372221e33db63b_960px.jpg

#### **Notes**





