

Thespesia populnea

Botanical Name: *Thespesia populnea*

Common Name: Asta

Morphological Characters:

This evergreen tree is bushy when young but thins out with age. It grows to 13 m (40 ft) or more with a spread of 3-6 m (10-20 ft). It grows rapidly under favourable conditions. Bark is brown, corrugated. Scaly twigs. Leaves are heart-shaped, shiny green, usually ranging in size from 5 cm to 20 cm (2 to 8 inches) long. Flowers are cup-shaped hibiscus-like pale yellow flowers are 5 to 8 cm (2 to 3 inches), with a dark blotch at the base of the petals. They last for one to two days, turning maroon and then dropping. They are produced intermittently throughout the year in warm climates. Capsule is a flattened indehiscent leathery sphere. The grayish brown seeds, 0.7 to 1.2 cm long (1/4 to 1/2 inch). Both the capsules and the hard seeds are buoyant and can be dispersed to very long distances by sea water.



Growing season and Type

1. Flower petals are yellow with maroon centers. The bright yellow flowers open early in the day, turning to a medium to dark orange later in the day.
2. Blooming Period: Year Round
3. Flowers last one day. Brown or grayish papery seed capsules form after flowering.



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1. Flower of *Thespesia populnea*
2. Leaf of *Thespesia populnea*
3. Tree of *Thespesia populnea*



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Source: www.naturia.per.sg/buloh/plants/portia