



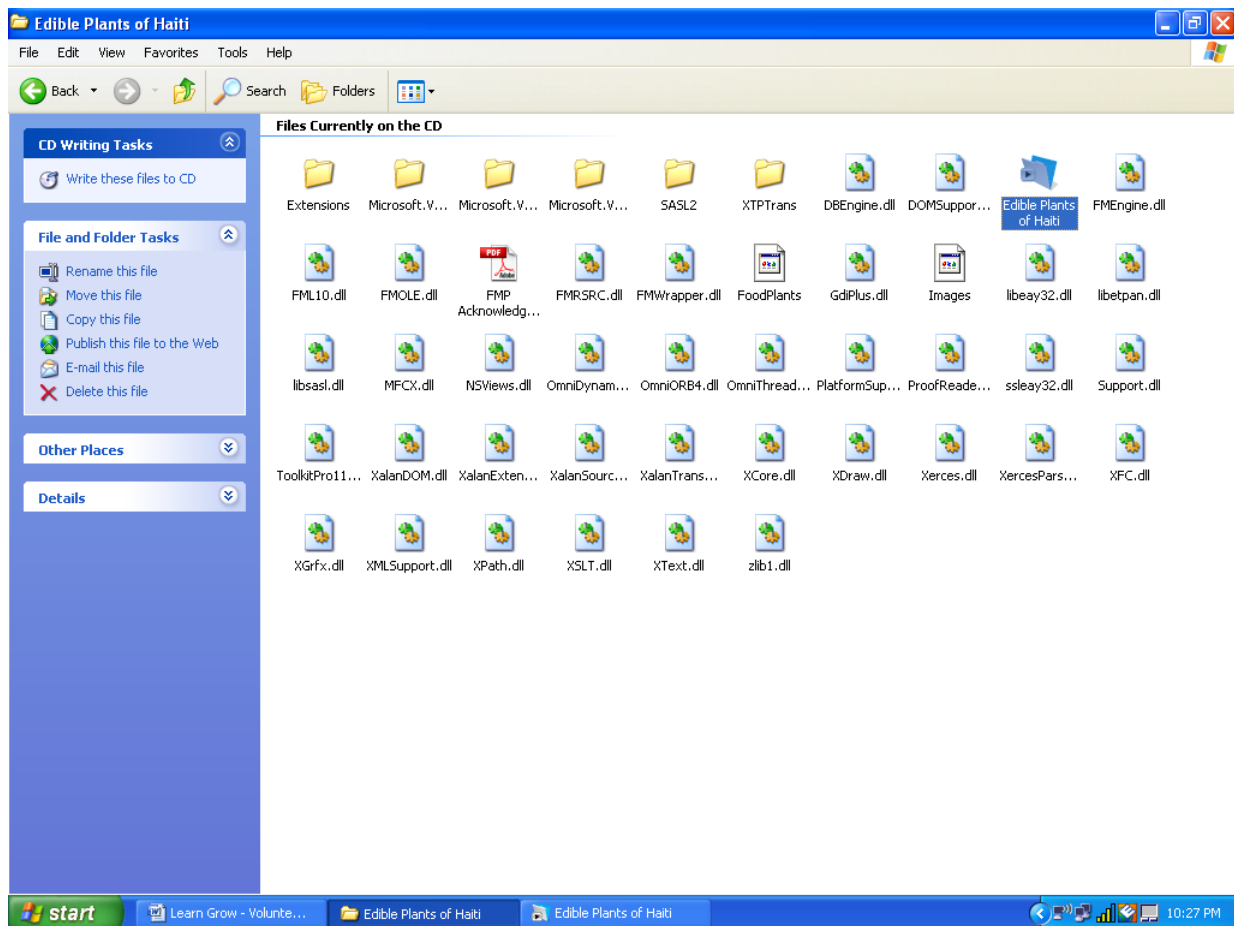
A Project of the Rotary Club of Devonport North
District 9830 & Food Plants International



Using the FPI Database to Identify and Get Information on Local Food Plants

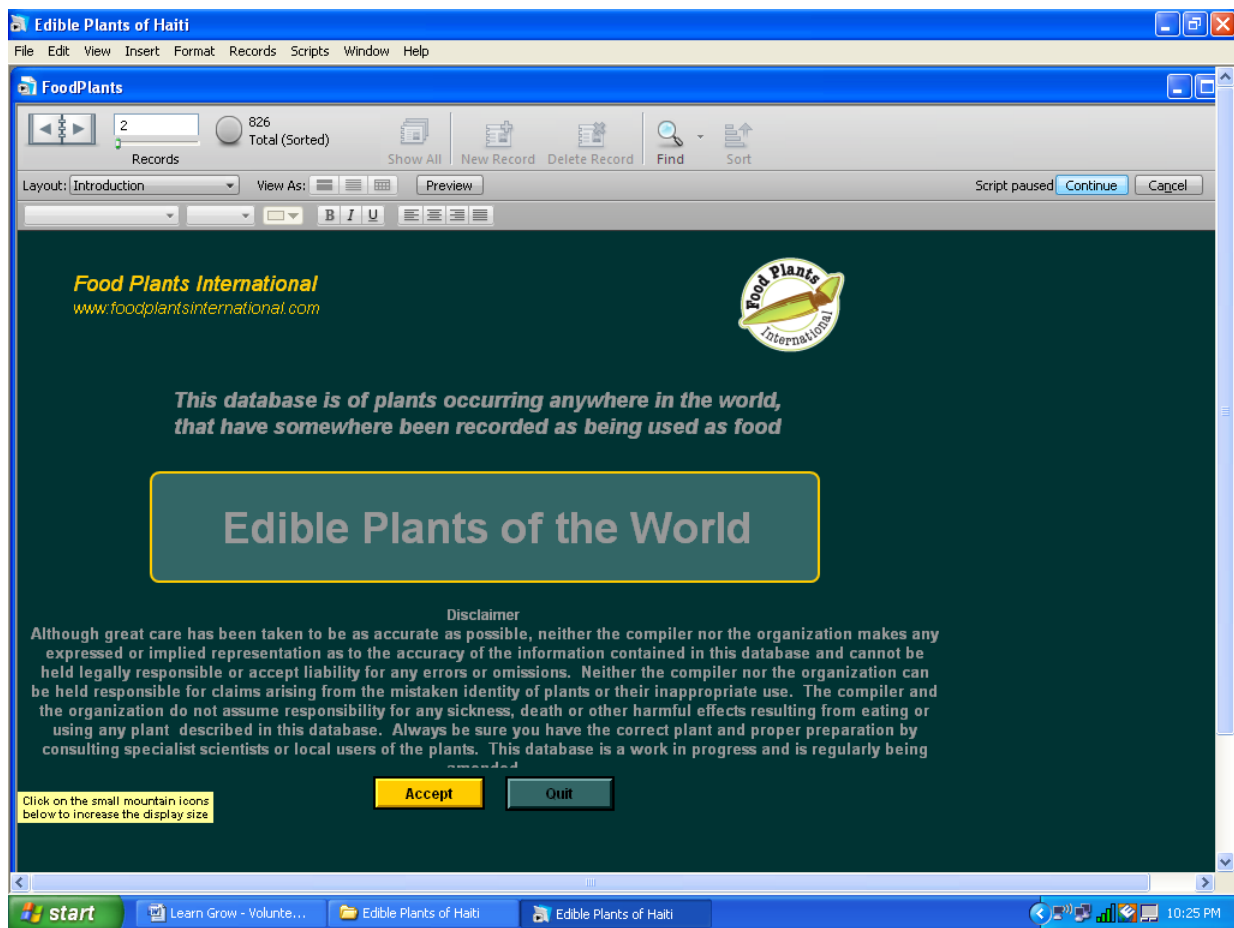
The FPI Database is a good way to begin learning about the food plants of the country or region in which you plan on starting a Learn♦Grow project. While not everyone likely to use the database is expected to be an instant expert in plant science, it is suggested that new users take the time to explore and enjoy this wonderful resource.

If you have a copy of the Food Plants International Database disk, insert it into your disk drive. Then, go to your “Start” Menu. Click on it. Then click on “My Computer”. Click on the D Drive. If you have inserted the disk correctly you should be looking at something that looks like this:



Next, click on the icon resembling an open folder (see above).

You should then see something that looks like this:

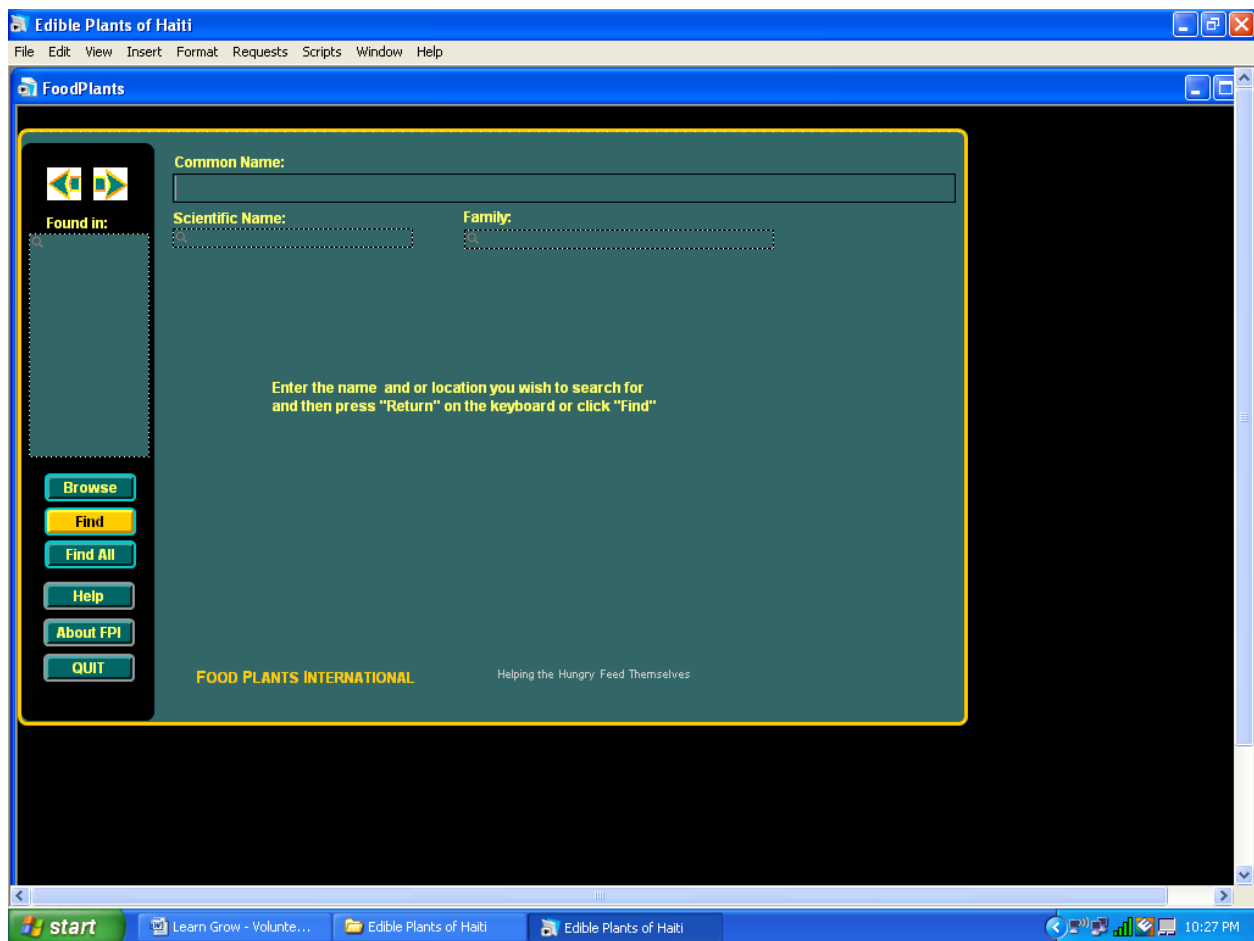


Read the disclaimer.

Note that it says:

“Although great care has been taken to be as accurate as possible, the compiler nor the organization makes any expressed or implied representation as to the accuracy of the information contained in this database and cannot be held legally responsible or accept liability for any errors or omissions. Neither the compiler nor the organization be held responsible for claims arising from the mistaken identity of plants or their inappropriate use. The compiler and the organization do not assume responsibility for any sickness, death or other harmful effects resulting from eating or using any plant described in this database. Always be sure you have the correct plant and proper preparation by consulting specialist scientists or local users of the plants. This database is a work in progress is regularly being amended.”

If you choose to use the database, accept the compiler’s disclaimer by clickin on “Accept”. You will then be taken to the next screen shown.



Note the options on the left side bar:

- Browse
- Find
- Find All
- Help
- About FPI
- QUIT

“Browse” allows you to browse the database as if you were flipping through pages of a book.

“Find” allows you to find specific plants by their common names, scientific names, scientific family names or by country or region.

“Find All” allows you to find all the plants in the same search category.

“Help” gives further details on using the database.

“About FPI” tells you more about Food Plants International and the work it is currently doing.

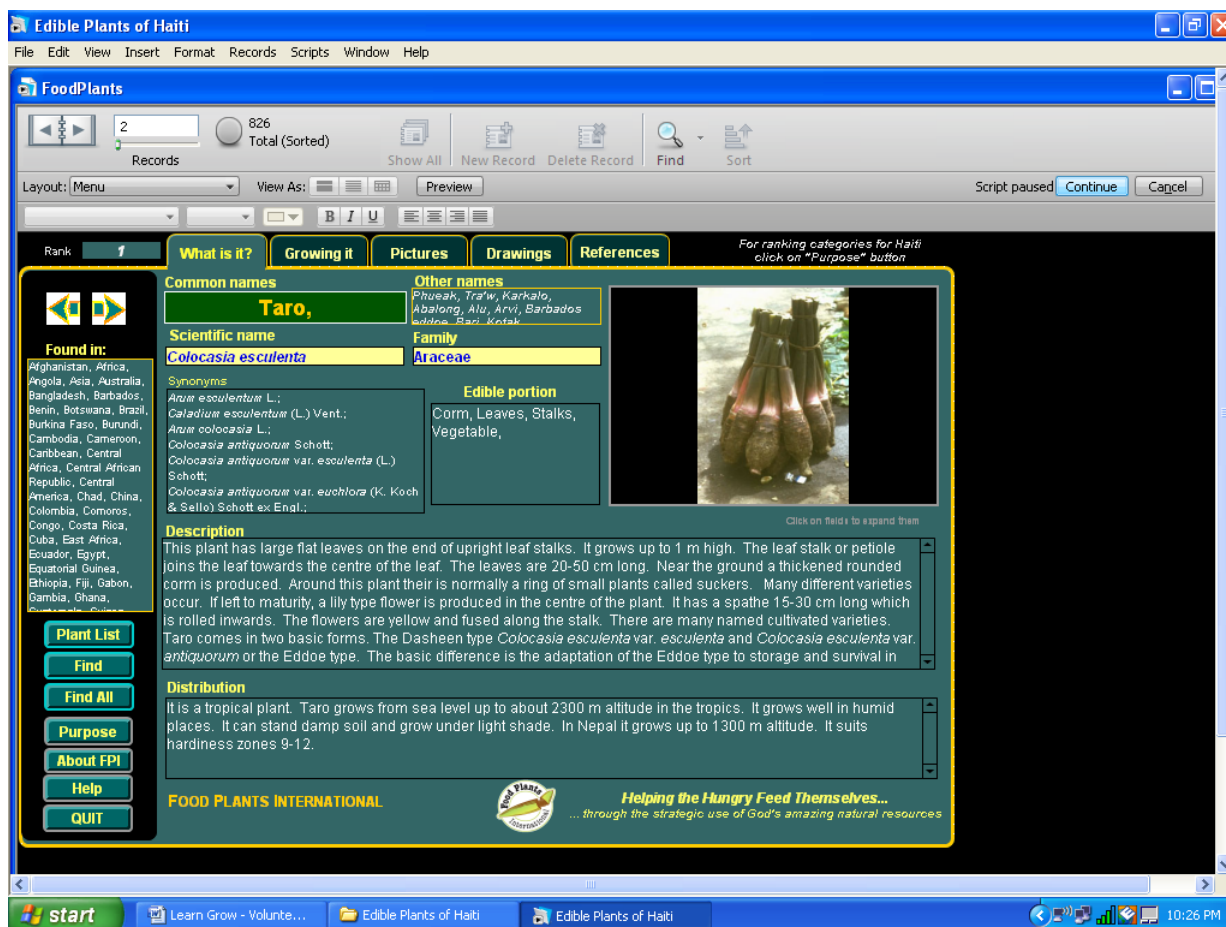
Type the word “taro” into the browser line under “Common Name:” and click on “Find” for the next demonstration.



The next screen should like this:



Click on “*Colocasia esculenta* Taro Araceae”. The next screen should look like this:



This screen gives you the following information:

Found in: - Where the plant is found

Common - Non-scientific names of the plant

Other Names - Common or non-scientific names commonly used

Scientific name – Latin binomial determined to be most widely accepted in current use by scientific community

Synonyms – Scientific names utilized in other scientific naming systems, some no longer in use.

Family – An important scientific grouping of plants with similar characteristics.

Edible portion (or portions)

Description – Written in simple, easily-to-understand language as opposed to scientific jargon.

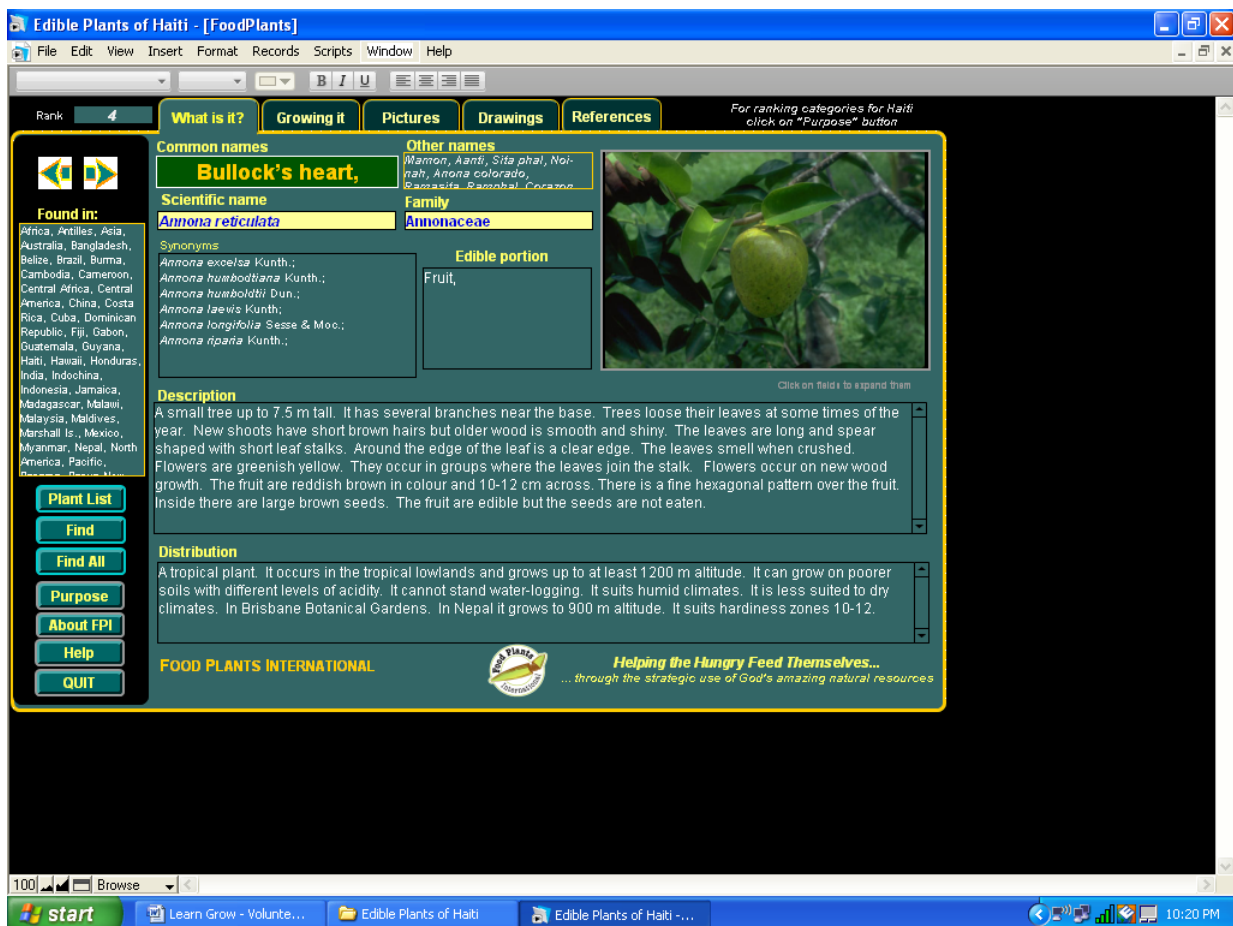
Distribution – Tells where the plant is commonly found.

Now try this. Click on “Find” again.

Type in “bullock’s heart” under “Common Name:”



Click "Find". You should then see the following screen:



You'll note that you'll see the same types of information under "Bullock's Heart" that you saw under "Taro" yet the two are vastly different plants.

This time click on each of the tabs.

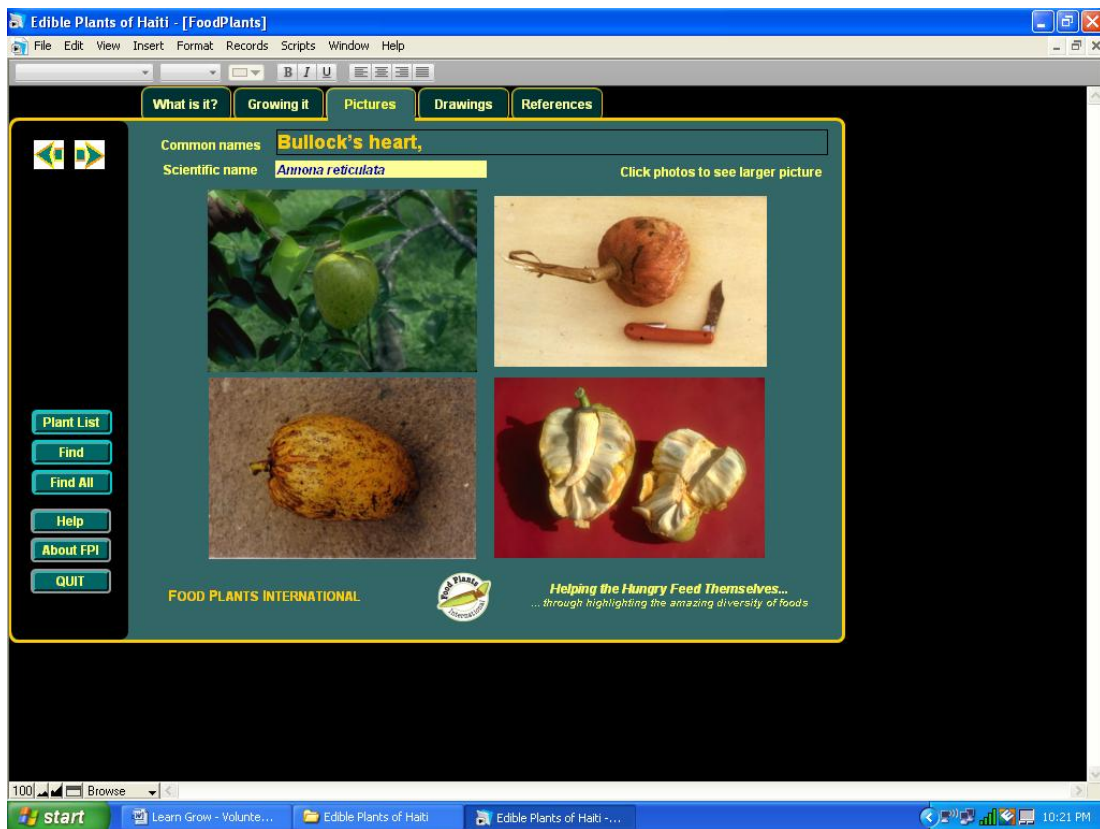
Look at the information under "Growing It".

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Edible Plants of Haiti - [FoodPlants]". The browser's menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "View", "Insert", "Format", "Records", "Scripts", "Window", and "Help". The address bar is empty. The main content area has a navigation bar with tabs: "What is it?", "Growing It", "Pictures", "Drawings", and "References". The "Growing It" tab is selected. The page content is organized into several sections:

- Common names:** "Bullock's heart,"
- Scientific name:** *Annona reticulata*
- Family:** Annonaceae
- Use:** The ripe fruit is eaten fresh. They are also used for preserves, drinks, ice cream, custards and other desserts. CAUTION: The seed kernel is poisonous.
- Cultivation:** Plants are normally grown from seeds. Seedling trees vary quite a bit. Seedlings are easy to transplant. A spacing of 4-7 m is suitable. Better kinds can be grown using budding or grafting.
- Production:** Trees begin fruiting at 3-5 years. Fruit setting is often improved by hand pollination. Fruit can vary from 0.25 to 2.25 kg each. The fruit has 13% sugar. Fruit production is seasonal. The season is normally Dec. to March.

On the left side, there is a "Status" section with a small image and text: "It is a cultivated fruit tree. Commonly seen on Manus Island and in some other coastal areas in Papua New Guinea." Below this are several buttons: "Plant List", "Find", "Find All", "Purpose", "About FPI", "Help", and "QUIT". At the bottom of the content area, there is a logo for "FOOD PLANTS INTERNATIONAL" and the slogan "Helping the Hungry Feed Themselves... by growing food in an ecological sound way". The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the "start" button, several open windows, and the system tray with the time "10:21 PM".

Next look under the tab for "Pictures":



Next look under "Pictures"

And finally, look under "References" to see the works cited as sources of information on the particular plant being described.



Exercise:

Try searching for the following plants by common name:

- Wing bean
- Mango
- Banana
- Cashew
- Peanut
- Cassava
- Yam
- Sweet Potato

Take particular note of the edible portions of each.

Try searching for plants under the family name of:

- Dioscoraceae
- Convolvulaceae

It is interesting to note the differences between these two families Dioscoraceae and Convolvulaceae. One contains what people in many tropical countries call yams and the other contains what those people call sweet potatoes. Note the distinctions. Although both families produce what might be considered to be similar looking tubers, the actual plants themselves, especially the flowers, look quite different.

Enter the name of the country in which you'd like to start a Learn Grow program. Browse through the plants you find there taking the time to study the pictures and the information on edible portions in order to familiarize yourself with them.