



TREE SPECIES (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

Genipa americana

PERU COMMON NAME

Jagua

TREE FAMILY

RUBIACEAE

AVERAGE LEAF SIZE (CM)

25cm × **11cm**
Length Width

ELEVATIONAL RANGE (M)

350–1000m

TREE HEIGHT

MEDIUM (20–35M)

DISTRIBUTION

**NATIVE TO PERU**

NATIVE TO

Region: Americas**Latin America:** Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela

COFFEE AGROFORESTRY INFORMATION

COFFEE SYSTEM

**ARABICA**

COFFEE IMPACT

**BENEFICIAL TO COFFEE**

CULTIVATION

**PLANTED****NATURAL**

PREVALENCE

Unknown

TREE BENEFITS AND USES

FARMER USES

**Food, Livestock Forage, Firewood, Lumber, Medicinal, Ornamental, Product, Ceremonial**

Used in the manufacture of base structures, tool handles and carpentry. The bark is a source of tannins. Bark fiber is used in the manufacturing of rough clothing. Used as a poison. The fruit is used as a diuretic, laxative, tonic, and to treat parasites. The fruit and juice are used in the treatment of anemia and liver problems, as well as a cold remedy. The bark is used to treat diarrhea and ulcers. A decoction of the root is strongly purgative. The pulp surrounding the seeds of the ripe fruit is edible, and has a sweet and somewhat rancid taste. The fruit can be eaten fresh, made into juices, or used to make jam and preserves. An unripe fruit juice turns blue-black on contact with the skin. It is used as a blue dye and has long been used by Indigenous peoples for tattooing and as body paint.

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Image: Genipa americana fruits: Laura Green © BG Kew <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/> Genipa americana leaves: D. Zappi © RBG Kew<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/> Genipa americana herbarium 1; Genipa americana herbarium 2: Herbarium Catalogue Specimens Digital Image © Board of Trustees, RBG Kew <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>Jezeer, Rosalien. (2018). PhD dissertation: Shedding Light on Shade- Reconciling Livelihoods and Biodiversity in Coffee Agroforests. [10.13140/RG.2.2.28895.71844](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.28895.71844);

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TREE MANAGEMENT

Soaking the seeds in running water for 1-2 days just before planting will accelerate germination. Plant seeds in light shade in a nursery. Germination rates are normally high with between 65 and 100% of the seed sprouting within 1-4 weeks. Initial growth rates are slow, generally takes about 12 months to reach a size of 20-40 cm. Due to the sensitivity to drought, it is better to use containers for seedlings. Grafting and propagation by cuttings are also used. Tolerates periods of flooding. Plants can begin to flower when they are between 3 and 5 years old from seed.

FARM SERVICES

**Coffee Shade, Windbreak, Soil Improvement**

Coffee Shade: commonly cultivated for its ornamental value and for the shade it can provide, and can be interplanted with crops to provide shade

Windbreak: occasionally planted as a living fence in pastures

BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS

**YES**

The flowers are visited by insects and hummingbirds. Fruit bats eat the fruit.