



Flowering Trees

Crescentia cujete L. (Calabash Tree) of Bignoniaceae is a small (6-10m high) evergreen tree with a straight trunk and broad open crown. Leaves are clustered at the end of twigs. They are dark green, broadest near the rounded apex and tapering towards the base with a short stalk. Flowers are greenish or yellowish-white with red or purple veins, foul-smelling and are produced on short pedicels, either singly or in pairs directly from the trunk. The petals are fused into a more or less bell-shaped corolla. Fruit is large, ellipsoidal, green with a hard and smooth shell containing numerous flattened seeds, which are embedded in fleshy pulp.

Calabash tree is commonly grown in the tropical gardens of the world as a botanical oddity.