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Diospyros texana

[Synonyms : *Brayodendron texanum*]

BLACK PERSIMMON is a shrub or tree. Native to south-western North America and to Mexico it has white flowers.

It is also known as Black persimon, Chapote (English, Mexican), Common sweetleaf, Florida laurel, Horse sugar, Mexican persimmon, Spanish chapote, Sweetleaf, Texas persimmon, and Yellow-wood.

Warning – some authorities note that contact with the heartwood can sometimes cause dermatitis.

Texana means ‘of or from Texas, USA’.

The small insipid-sweetish tasting, nearly black fruit (edible after the first frosts) were eaten by the North American Comanche Indians.

The fruit juice is an indelible black dye which is used by Mexicans to dye sheepskins.

The hard black heartwood has been used for turning and making tool handles and engraving blocks.