





CCTV News Photo

The heist took place on October 9, 2015. According to CCTV News, the three men arrived at the tropical botanical garden armed with tools. They cut a rosewood tree down and hid its trunk in a fish pond back home.

One of the thieves was arrested about a week later. His accomplices panicked and sold the trunk in Laos the next day. They were arrested shortly after.



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The fragrant rosewood tree is a second-class key protected wild plant in China. Each is worth around 360,100 yuan.

Fragrant rosewood is a rare species of legume plant that grows in the Hainan, Fujian, Zhejiang, and Guangdong provinces. The plants are used for medicine and making furniture and ornaments.

Despite government efforts to protect the species, fragrant rosewoods have become increasingly rare. Demand for its wood remains high, and it takes decades for a sapling to grow to be useful. The species has been listed as “vulnerable” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



VCG Photo

Prices for the trees can go even higher. A 20-meter tall fragrant rosewood with a diameter of 65 centimeters was valued at 23 million yuan in Guangdong in 2012.

Do you think the punishment fits the crime in this case, or should the sentences be cut down?