PLANT FACT SHEET

Macropiper excelsum (G. Forster) Miq.

GENUS *Macropiper* **FAMILY** Piperaceae

COMMON NAMES Pepper Tree, New Zealand pepper-tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Spice, Flowers

The flower clusters have a peppery taste. They are eaten.
The fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A densely branched shrub. It grows 2-3 m high. The stems are black. The leaves are heart shaped and very dark green. They are 8-12 cm long. The veins spread out from the base. The flowers are very small and yellow. The fruit are catkins or berries. These are 3-4 cm long. They are green when unripe and turn orange-yellow when mature. They are edible.

HABITAT

Macropiper excelsum subsp. psittacorum occurs in Norfolk Is and Lord Howe Is.. These have larger leaves and longer flower spikes. Melbourne Botanical Gardens.
Macropiper excelsum subsp. excelsum occurs in New Zealand. It grows in coastal forests. It is damaged by heavy frosts. Hobart Botanical gardens.
It suits hardiness zones 7-11.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or from half hardened cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing.

NOTES

There are 9 or 10 Macropiper species. They occur in the Pacific.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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