PLANT FACT SHEET

Vaccinium floribundum Kunth

GENUS *Vaccinium* **FAMILY** Ericaceae

COMMON NAMES Colombian blueberry, Andean blueberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are made into jams, drinks and pies. They are also eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub. It grows 1-2 m high. It spreads twice as wide. It produces long arching growths. The leaves are oval and dark green. They have shallow teeth. The leaves are 1.3 cm long and they are crowded along the stems. The young stems are purple-red. The flowers are rose pink and cylinder shaped. They grow along the stems of the previous year's growth. They are in tightly packed groups 5 cm long. The fruit are red berries they turn blue-black with maturity. They are 5 mm across. They are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the mountain in tropical South America between 2,800 m and 4,300 m in forest areas. It suits USDA hardiness zones 8-11.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed or cuttings. The long arching branches should be pruned to give better fruiting. It benefits by being burnt to remove excessive old growth and weeds.

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