PLANT FACT SHEET

Epigaea repens L.

GENUS *Epigaea* **FAMILY** Ericaceae

COMMON NAMES Trailing arbutus, Mayflower

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Fruit

The flowers are eaten raw. They are added to salads.

DESCRIPTION

A small evergreen shrub. It grows about 15 cm high. It creeps or trails over the ground. The stems form roots along its length. The flowers are in clusters and are pink and waxy. There are 5 or 6 flowers in a cluster at the ends of shoots. The fruit are round capsules filled with seeds.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is native to North America. It is damaged by frost. It grows in light sandy well-drained soils. It needs a protected shaded position. It is resistant to frost but damaged by drought. It suits hardiness zones 3-9.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The soil temperature needs to be above 10-13°C. It can also be grown from cuttings or rooted sections.

NOTES

The leaves are used in medicine.

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