PLANT FACT SHEET

Vaccinium ovalifolium J. E. Smith

GENUS *Vaccinium* **FAMILY** Ericaceae

COMMON NAMES Black huckleberry, Oval-leafed blueberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The very ripe berries are harvested then pressed into a cake and dried. Later they are stirred with water and eaten. They are also eaten raw and cooked.

DESCRIPTION

A clumpy shrub. It is fairly narrow and upright. It grows 1 m high. It can grow 3 m high. It loses its leaves. It can form suckers if the roots are damaged. The young stems are angular and have grooves. The leaves are oval and have smooth edges. The leaves are pale green and paler underneath. The leaves are 3-6 cm long and 2-3 cm wide. The flowers appear before the leaves and are 1 cm long by 5 mm wide. They can be green or pink. The fruit are blue, purple or black berries. They are 8 mm across and are edible. They have a gritty texture. It can form hybrids with Vaccinium deliciosum and Vaccinium membranaceum.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is cold hardy. It does well in moist conditions and suits bogs.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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