PLANT FACT SHEET

Prunus lusitanica L.

GENUS *Prunus* **FAMILY** Rosaceae

COMMON NAMES Portugal laurel

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

DESCRIPTION

A dense evergreen shrub. It grows 6-10 m high. It is a broad spreading shape. The bark is dark grey-brown and smooth. The leaves are alternate. The leaves are oval and 12 cm long by 5 cm wide and with red leaf stalks. The leaves are dark and glossy green above and yellow-green underneath. They have fine teeth and long pointed tips. The flowers are white and 1 cm across and in slender sprays. There are about 20 flowers in each cluster. These are about 25 cm long. The fruit are red and turn black as they ripen. They hang on stalks. There are 3 subspecies.

HABITAT

It is native to S.W. France, Portugal and Spain. Temperate. It can grow on chalky soils. Geelong Botanical Gardens. Kyneton Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 7-10.

NOTES

There are about 200 Prunus species. It can be invasive.

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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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/0dc8385d-0a29-4367-8c44-aab5360dba73