PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Solanum americanum* Miller

**GENUS** *Solanum* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Glossy nightshade

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Fruit, Leaves, Vegetable, Leaves - tea, Flowers

Caution: The unripe fruit may be poisonous.
The fruit and leaves are eaten cooked or in soup.
The ripe fruit are eaten.
The leaves are eaten as a vegetable.

## DESCRIPTION

A herb. It grows 30-150 cm high. It is an annual plant. The leaves are oval and 5-10 cm long by 2-2.5 cm wide. The leaves vary is shape in different locations. The flowers are in the axils of leaves. The fruit is soft and round. It is 5-6 mm across. It is black or red.

Also often included as the same as Solanum nigrum. or as Solanum nigrum var. americanum.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Bolivia it grows up to 2000 m altitude. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 1,200 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places. It is mostly at low altitudes and in humid areas. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. It can be grown from stem cuttings. Seeds can be put in a nursery and transplanted. They can be transplanted when 15 cm high. A spacing of 30 cm is suitable.

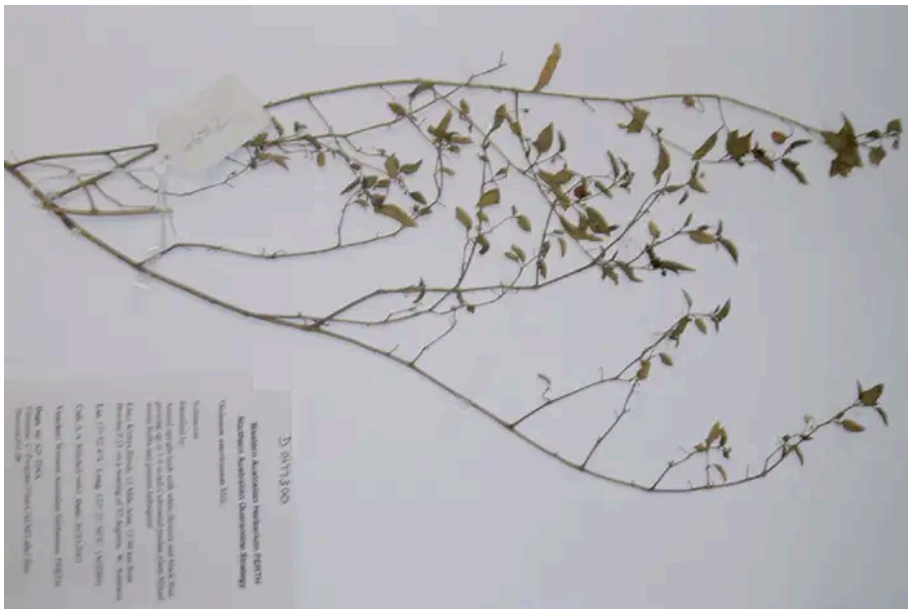
### Harvesting and Seed Production

Seedlings grow quickly.

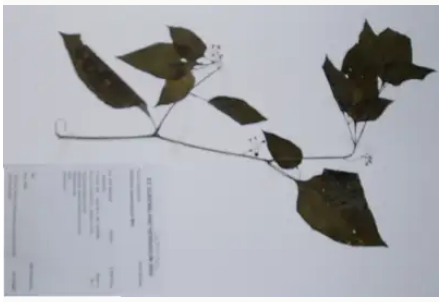
## NOTES

There are about 1400 Solanum species.

## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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