PLANT FACT SHEET

Vitis labrusca L.

GENUS *Vitis* **FAMILY** Vitaceae

COMMON NAMES Fox grape

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Oil, Sap

The fruit are eaten raw. They are also dried or preserved. They are used for juice, jellies, jams, pies, conserves and syrups. They are used for drinks or fermented into wine or vinegar.
The leaves are eaten cooked and used to wrap other foods. They are also preserved in salt. The leaves are used for sarma in Turkey. They are rolled around a filling of rice or minced meat.

DESCRIPTION

A woody vine. It keeps growing from year to year. The young shoots are long and like felt. The leaves are large and 3 lobed. They are deep green above and like felt and white underneath. The leaves are leathery and 15-30 cm long. The flowers are in closely branched groups with male and female flowers in the same group. The fruit are large and purple-black. They are 2-3 cm across. They have a musky flavour.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It needs full sun and a well-drained fertile soil. It is more resistant to insect, pest and diseases than Vitis vinifera. It suits plant hardiness zones 4-9.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown by grafting.

NOTES

There are 60 to 70 species of Vitis.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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