PLANT FACT SHEET

Leycesteria formosa Wall.

GENUS *Leycesteria* **FAMILY** Caprifoliaceae

COMMON NAMES Himalayan honeysuckle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The red berries are eaten fresh. They have the flavour of bitter chocolate.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous shrub. It grows to 1.5-2.5 m high. It spreads 1.8 m wide. The stems have a glaucous bloom and then are dark green and polished. They are like thick grass shoots and hollow. It forms a thicket with time. The leaves are opposite and narrowly oval. The leaves are pointed. The flowers are white and funnel shaped in racemes 10 cm long. They are at the ends of branches. They droop. There are wine-red bracts around the flowers. The fruit are purplish-black berries.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It can tolerate light frosts. It grows best in moderately fertile well drained soil. It can grow in full sun or part shade. It grows between 1,500-3,000 m altitude in the Himalayas. It suits hardiness zones 7-10. Tasmania Herbarium.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings. The seeds can be grown in containers. The seeds grow easily. The seeds can remain viable in the soil for several years.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The fruit normally ripen only a few at a time.

NOTES

There are 6 Leycesteria species. It can be invasive.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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