PLANT FACT SHEET

Prunus nigra Aiton

GENUS *Prunus* **FAMILY** Rosaceae

COMMON NAMES Canada plum, Canada black plum, Horse plum, Red plum

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The fruit are eaten raw. They are also used in preserves. They are stewed and used in jelly, pies, sauces, fruit juices, marmalade and plum butter. They are dried and used like raisins.

DESCRIPTION

A very small tree. It grows up to 9 m tall. The trunk can be 25 cm across. The trunk is short and crooked and often divided into several branches. The leaves are broadly oval and 6-12 cm long. They have a long slender tip. The base is wedge shaped. There are rounded teeth along the edge. The flowers are white but turn pink. They are 15-25 mm across. They occur in small clusters. The fruit are 25-30 mm long. The skin is thick and red. The flesh is yellow and juicy and sour.

HABITAT

Temperate. It grows best in river valleys. It is often on lime soils.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It forms thickets from root sprouts.

NOTES

There are about 200 Prunus species.
Prunus nigra Desf. is a synonym of Armeniaca dasycarpa (Ehrh.) Borkh..

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/1b8b689c-2c77-4e2c-9a03-db5033d1d23b