PLANT FACT SHEET

Sarcobatus vermiculatus (Hook.) Torr.

GENUS *Sarcobatus* **FAMILY** Sarcobataceae

COMMON NAMES Greasewood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds

CAUTION: It can absorb high levels of sodium and potassium making it poisonous.
The young tender twigs are cut into short pieces, boiled until tender then served with butter or cream sauce.
The seeds are occasionally eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A dense spiny shrub. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows 1.8 m high and spreads 2 m wide. The branches arch over. The wood is hard and yellow. The leaves are narrow and fleshy. They are grey-green and 35 mm long. Male and female flowers are separate on the same plant. The male flowers form catkin like spikes. These are 30 mm long. The calyx of the female flower develops into a leathery fruit. It has a wing towards the middle.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is native to North America. It grows in arid or salty locations. It suits hardiness zones 5-10.

NOTES

There is only one genus in the Sarcobataceae family and 2 Sarcobatus species.

REFERENCES

Beckstrom-Sternberg, Stephen M., and James A. Duke. "The Foodplant Database." http://probe.nalusda.gov:8300/cgi-bin/browse/foodplantdb. (ACEDB version 4.0 - data version July 1994)

Cormack, R. G. H., 1967, Wild Flowers of Alberta. Commercial Printers Edmonton, Canada. p 83

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 1312

W. H. Emory, Not. milit. reconn. 149. 1848

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 222

Heywood, V.H., Brummitt, R.K., Culham, A., and Seberg, O., 2007, Flowering Plant Families of the World. Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew. p 296

http://www.stoller-eser.com/Flora/ethnobotany_table.htm

Kermath, B. M., et al, 2014, Food Plants in the Americas: A survey of the domesticated, cultivated and wild plants used for Human food in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. On line draft. p 785

Moerman, D. F., 2010, Native American Ethnobotany. Timber Press. p 518

Plants for a Future database, The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0NG, UK. http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/2194b87a-00a5-49a1-942b-d268f265590f