PLANT FACT SHEET

Aesculus parviflora Walter

GENUS *Aesculus* **FAMILY** Sapindaceae

COMMON NAMES Dwarf buckeye, Bottlebrush Buckeye

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds

Caution: This plant contains saponins which although poisonous are not normally easily absorbed by the body. It is nevertheless probably no wise to eat large quantities.
The seeds are eaten cooked. Before eating they are slowly roasted then often crushed and washed for 2-5 days in running water. They are then dried and ground into a powder.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree growing up to 4 m high and spreading to 4 m across. It has many stems. It forms new growth from the roots producing a clump. The leaves have 5 large leaflets. The veins are distinct. The leaves are downy on the underside. The flowers occur in spidery spikes. The petals are small and white and the stamens are long and pinkish.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows naturally in woodlands and on the coastal plains in Southern North America. Plants are very shade tolerant. It does best in a well drained soil. It can tolerate cold to about -20°C. They need a long hot dry summer to fruit. Arboretum Tasmania. It suits hardiness zone 6-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown by seed, cuttings or suckers. Fresh seed which has not been allowed to dry out should be used. Seed germinates quickly. Trees transplant fairly easily. Root cuttings should be used if grown from cuttings. Plants spread easily by suckers.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants are slow to establish.

NOTES

There are 15 Aesculus species.
Also put in the family Hippocastanaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Biocyclopedia Edible Plant Species. biocyclopedia.org

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 55

Brickell, C. (Ed.), 1999, The Royal Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants. Convent Garden Books. p 84

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 108

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 80

Fl. carol. 128. 1788

Hedrick, U.P., 1919, (Ed.), Sturtevant's edible plants of the world. p 28

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

Ryan, S., 2008, Dicksonia. Rare Plants Manual. Hyland House. p 6

Wickens, G.E., 1995, Edible Nuts. FAO Non-wood forest products. FAO, Rome. p 132

Young, J., (Ed.), 2001, Botanica's Pocket Trees and Shrubs. Random House. p 73

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/277d35cd-5d34-4c65-a146-c89a585503d9