PLANT FACT SHEET

Rhodomyrtus tomentosa (Aiton) Hassk.

GENUS *Rhodomyrtus* **FAMILY** Myrtaceae

COMMON NAMES Downy myrtle, Ceylon Hill Cherry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Flowers

The fleshy layer of the ripe fruit is eaten raw. It is also cooked and used in pies and jam.
They are also preserved.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 1-2 m tall. The leaves are opposite, leathery and pointed at the base and slightly pointed at the tip. They are hairy underneath. The leaves have 3 veins. The flowers are showy. They are pink and have S shaped petals. They occur in the axils of leaves. The fruit are small yellow berries. They can be greenish-purple. They contain several seeds. The flesh is sweet.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It suits cool tropical and subtropical conditions. It grows in shrubby savannas. It grows in wet forests up to 2,400 m above sea level. Found only in northern Luzon and the Babuyanes islands in the Philippines. It can tolerate wet soil conditions. It can grow in acid soils with pH 4-5. It cannot tolerate frost. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. It can also be grown by division of the plant. It can be grown by cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It produces fruit in 3-4 years. Fruit mature in 60 days.

NOTES

It can be invasive.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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