PLANT FACT SHEET

Chimaphila umbellata (L.) W. P. C. Barton

GENUS *Chimaphila* **FAMILY** Ericaceae

COMMON NAMES Spotted wintergreen, Prince's pine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

The leaves are used to make tea.
They are also chewed.
The leaves are used for root beer.
An extract of the leaves is used to flavour candy and soft drinks.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It is evergreen. It often forms a mat. The underground stems or rhizomes are 1-2 mm across. They are long and creeping and branched. The aerial stems are erect or curve upwards. They are 5-15 cm long and 1-2.2 mm wide. They are angled. The leaves on the stem are in 2-6 groups of 4-9 leaves. The leaf stalk is 3-6 mm long. The leaf blade is pale green underneath. It is sword shaped and 1-5 cm long by 6-8 mm wide. It is thickly leathery. There are 2-7 flowers in a group 3-6 mm long. Often the flowers are nodding. The flowers are white. The fruit is a capsule 4-7 mm across. It splits open by 5 valves.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows in dry pine and deciduous broad leafed forest at low altitudes in N China. It is best in light, well-drained soil. It needs a protected, shaded position. It is frost hardy. It suits hardiness zones 5-9.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seed or by division.

NOTES

There are 4 Chimaphila species. They are in Europe and North America.
Also put in the family Pyrolaceae.

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