PLANT FACT SHEET

Potentilla fruticosa L.

GENUS *Potentilla* **FAMILY** Rosaceae

COMMON NAMES Shrubby cinquefoil, Kurile tea

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - tea, Flowers, Spice

The dried leaves are used as a tea substitute by people living at higher altitudes.

DESCRIPTION

An erect shrub. Sometimes it can lie along the ground. It grows about 1 m high. It usually has many branches. The branches are covered with reddish-brown and peeling bark. The leaves are divided into 3-7 leaflets. These are arranged along the stalk. They are 0.6-1.8 cm long by 0.2-0.6 cm wide. They are oblong with a short pointed tip. They are covered with dense silky hairs above but smooth underneath. The flowers are yellow. They usually occur singly and are at the end of branches. There are some varieties described based on the erectness of the plant and the hairiness of the leaves.

HABITAT

It is a cold temperate plant. In Nepal they grow between 2400-4600 m altitude. They grow in rocky grasslands. In China it grows in alpine meadows and grassy mountain slopes. In Canada it is usually on limestone soils. It suits hardiness zones 3-9. In Hobart Botanical Gardens. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed or root offshoots.

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