PLANT FACT SHEET

Solanum macrocarpon L.

GENUS *Solanum* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES Native eggplant, African eggplant

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit, Flowers, Vegetable

The leaves are cooked and eaten. They are boiled or steamed and served as a side dish with rice. The water is discarded.
The fruit are eaten cooked. They are used in soups and sauces.

DESCRIPTION

An annual plant. It can keep groing for some years. The leaves are dark green and glossy. The leaf stalk is not well defined as the leaf blade runs down into the stalk. Leaves are generally not very hairy. The flowers are purple or sometimes white. The flowers are large. The fruit are are round and greenish white but become orange-yellow or brown when fully ripe. They are hard or firm with long calyces around the fruit.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It suits the hot humid tropics. It grows up to 1,765 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Seeds can be grown in a nursery then transplanted.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants produce fruit over 60 to 120 days from planting. The unripe fruit or leaves are plucked off the plant.

NOTES

There are about 1400 Solanum species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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