PLANT FACT SHEET

Paliuris spina-christi Mill.

GENUS *Paliuris* **FAMILY** Rhamnaceae

COMMON NAMES Christ's thorn, Jerusalem thorn

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Tea

The fruit is eaten fresh or dried.

DESCRIPTION

A slender straggling shrub. It grows to 5 m high. The branches are very spiny. They have many pairs of thorns, one straight and one curved over. The stems arch over. The stems are zigzag. The leaves are alternate and arranged in 2 opposite ranks. They are oval and have teeth and have 3 veins along them. They are shiny green and have short stalks. The flowers are yellowish-green and borne in clusters. The flowers have a slight perfume. The woody fruit is up to 3 cm across. They are flat and circular. The fruit are red.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate plant. On dry sandy hills up to 3000 m altitude. It grows best in well drained soil in full sunlight. It prefers soil with lime. It can tolerate drought once established. It suits hardiness zones 8-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. They are best sown when freshly ripe. Plants cna be grown from cuttings of half ripe wood. They can also be grown from root cuttings. Plants can also be grown by layering.

NOTES

There are 8 Paliuris species.

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