PLANT FACT SHEET

Solanum incanum L.

GENUS *Solanum* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES Bitter tomato

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable, Fruit - spice

The immature fruit and young leaves are cooked and eaten. They are used in pickles.
The fruit juice is used as a rennet to curdle milk.
The fruit are pounded with red peppers and cola to make a drink.

DESCRIPTION

A herb or shrub. It grows 120 cm high. The stems and branches are yellow-green. They have prickles up to 8 mm long. These can be straight or curved. The leaves are 4-8 cm long by 3-6 cm wide. They are broadly oval. The flower are purple-blue. The fruit is a round berry. It is 2-3 cm long and yellow. The seeds are 2.5 mm wide.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows between 1-2,350 m above sea level. It needs good light. In Pakistan it grows up to 1,400 m altitude. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be cut back and will re-grow.

NOTES

It is used in medicine. This plant is the original plant from which Solanum melongena was selected.

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