PLANT FACT SHEET

Physalis viscosa L.

GENUS *Physalis* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES Sticky Cape Gooseberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The ripe fruit are eaten raw. They are also used for jam.

DESCRIPTION

An erect plant. It has a spreading habit. The roots are extensive and creeping. It grows 60-180 cm high. It keeps growing from year to year. The leaves are light green and have leaf stalks. The leaves do not have hairs and have a wavy edge. The flowers are yellow. They grow in the axils of the upper leaves. The flowers are bell shaped and 2.5 cm across. They have dark centres. The fruit is a berry which is orange and sticky. It is covered in a thin outer covering.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate plant. In Chile it grows from sea level to 2,000 m altitude. It grows in humid areas with constant rain. It grows in full sun. It can tolerate some dry periods and some shade. It can grow in arid places. It suits hardiness zone 9. It can tolerate light frosts.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed or from root pieces.

NOTES

There are about 75-100 Physalis species.

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