PLANT FACT SHEET

Torminalis glaberrima (Gand.) Sennikov & Kurtto

GENUS *Torminalis* **FAMILY** Rosaceae

COMMON NAMES Checkertree, Chequers, Maple service, Wild Service tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten after being subject to frost. It can be processed into jellies, conserves and wine.

DESCRIPTION

A spreading deciduous tree. It grows 15-20 m high. The bark is dark grey and broken into shallow cracks. The leaves are maple shaped. They are alternate and shiny on both sides. They are 10 cm long and almost 10 cm across. The leaves have several lobes. The bottom pair of lobes grow at right angles to the leaf stalk. The leaves turn purplish in autumn. The flowers are creamy-white and in rounded heads. The flowers are 1.2 cm across. The fruit are rounded and produced in clusters. They are a light, leathery brown with speckles. They are 1.2 cm across.

Commonly listed as Sorbus torminalis

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is native to N. Africa, S.W. Asia and Europe. It suits hardiness zones 6-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Seed do not germinate readily.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees grow slowly.

NOTES

There are about 75 Sorbus species. The fruit have been used as medicine.

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