PLANT FACT SHEET

Cissus repens Lam.

GENUS *Cissus* **FAMILY** Vitaceae

COMMON NAMES Native grape, Variegated grape

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Shoots, Fruit, Roots - spice, Stems

The ripe fruit are eaten but they burn the throat and tongue. The fruit are edible but sour.
The young leaves are cooked and eaten. They are used in soups. The leaves are used to make a tea like drink.
The stems are used in curries.
The roots are cut into small pieces and finely ground and used to add a spicy flavour to rice.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen vine. It will climb to 3-15 m high and spread to 3 m across. The stem is woody and it is a vigorous climber. Young shoots are shiny and dark purple. They are succulent. The leaves are 4-15 cm long by 3-8 cm wide. The leaves are bluish green and white on top and purple underneath. They are heart shaped. The flowers are yellow and in small clusters opposite the leaves. The fruit are black oval berries. They are about 1 cm across. They occur in bunches along the stem.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It prefers humus rich, well drained soils. It needs a protected, shaded position. It is drought and frost tender. It grows in cooler rainforests. It often spreads over the ground. In Assam it grows in the plains and hills up to 3,000 m above sea level. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from stem cuttings which strike easily. They can also be grown from seed which germinate easily when fresh.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruit are ripe in Australia from May to July. Flowers and fruit occur in India from February to March.

NOTES

There are about 200-350 Cissus species. There are about 75 species in tropical America.

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