PLANT FACT SHEET

Arbutus unedo L.

GENUS *Arbutus* **FAMILY** Ericaceae

COMMON NAMES Irish Strawberry tree, Strawberry tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are usually not eaten raw because they have little taste. They are used for drinks, sweets and other dishes. They can be used for jam.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It can be 9 m high. The bark is dark grey-brown. It is rather fibrous and scaly. The trunk is short and the branches twisted. The smaller branches and twigs are reddish. The leaves are alternate and evergreen. The are narrowly oval and taper to the tip and narrow to the base. There are teeth around the edge. The leaves are dark green. The flowers are small and bell-shaped. They are white or pink. They occur in clusters. The fruits are strawberry-like. They are 2.5 cm across. They contain many seeds.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is native to Ireland. They need full sun and fertile well-drained soil. It can tolerate reasonable frosts. It can tolerate salt laden winds but not very cold winds. They do not do well on alkaline soils. It suits hardiness zones 7-10. Tasmania Herbarium. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seed are sown fresh. They can also be grown from semi-ripe cuttings. Seedlings need protection until established.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows slowly. Fruit take 12 months to ripen.

NOTES

There are 14 Arbutus species. Fruit are rich in niacin, vitamin C and beta-carotene.

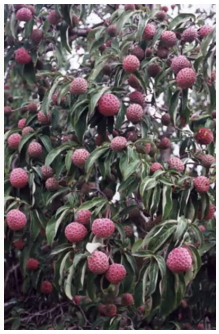
PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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