PLANT FACT SHEET

Berberis asiatica Roxb. ex DC.

GENUS *Berberis* **FAMILY** Berberidaceae

COMMON NAMES Himalayan barberry, Raisin barberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Flowers

The ripe fruit are eaten fresh or pickled. They are also dried and used like raisins.
Alcohol is distilled from the ripe fruit. Caution: Alcohol is a cause of cancer.
The flowers are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A spiny shrub. It grows about 3 m high. The leaves have short stalks and occur in clusters. The leaves are 1.5-9 cm long by 0.5-2 cm wide. They are oval and leathery. There are spines around the edge. The flowers are yellow. The fruit is fleshy or pulpy and blue-black when ripe. The fruit are 8 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. Plants grow in Nepal from 600-2500 m altitude. They occur on exposed, rocky hillsides. It can grow in sun or shade. They are hardy.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Sikkim fruit are available Sep. to Oct.

NOTES

There are about 450-500 Berberis species.

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Wild edible plants of Himachal Pradesh

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