PLANT FACT SHEET

Gaultheria shallon Pursh

GENUS *Gaultheria* **FAMILY** Ericaceae

COMMON NAMES Salal, Shallon, Western wintergreen

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit can be eaten fresh or dried. The fruit are used in preserves, pies, jellies, jams and syrup.
They can be dried and stored. They can be eaten like raisins.
The fruit are used for drinks and made into wines.

DESCRIPTION

A suckering shrub. It grows to 1.2-3 m high. It spreads by underground suckers. The branches also take root along the ground. The leaves are broadly oval and 10 cm long. The flowers occur in loose flower clusters. They are white or pink and at the end of branches. The fruit are fleshy and purple. They are 12 mm long. They have many small seeds. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is native to North America. It grows naturally in mixed evergreen forests. It suits shady spots. It is very cold hardy. It does well in moist, humus rich, peaty soil. It suits hardiness zones 5-9.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from suckers. Plants should be spaced 1 m apart. It can also be grown by seeds.

NOTES

There are about 170 Gaultheria species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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