PLANT FACT SHEET

Podocarpus lawrencei Hook. f.

GENUS *Podocarpus* **FAMILY** Podocarpaceae

COMMON NAMES Mountain Plum Pine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A low growing pine. It grows 0.4-4 m high and spreads 1-3 m wide. It is small and gnarled. Young growth is pale green and has a waxy layer. The branches can lie along the ground. It becomes taller in sheltered sites. The small branches are ribbed. The leaves are small, closely packed and blue-green. They are 0.5-1.5 cm long by 0.15-0.4 cm wide. They are alternate. They are deep green above and paler underneath. The male cones are about 0.4 cm long. They can occur singly or in clusters. They are cylinder shaped and pink or purple. The female cones are in the axils of leaves and do not have stalks. The fruit are bright red. They are succulent. Several different forms of this plant exist.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows in alpine regions. It grows above 1000 m altitude. They need well drained acid soil. They can tolerate frost and snow. They can withstand strong winds. Often it grows on rocky scree slopes. Hobart Botanical gardens. Melbourne Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 7-10. Tasmania Herbarium. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from cuttings. If it is grown from seed, the seed need cold treatment.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is slow growing.

NOTES

There are about 100 Podocarpus species. They are mostly in the tropics and subtropics.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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