PLANT FACT SHEET

Billardiera longiflora Labill.

GENUS *Billardiera* **FAMILY** Pittosporaceae

COMMON NAMES Purple Apple-berry, Mountain Blue Berry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The purple fruit is eaten. They are also pureed or added to fruit salads. They can be used for jams, jelly and chutney.

DESCRIPTION

A slender woody plant. It has twining stems. It climbs over other plants. It grows 2-4 m tall. The leaves are narrow. They are produced alternately. The leaves are dark green and shiny. They are 2-5 cm long by 0.3-0.5 cm wide. The flowers have 5 petals and hang downwards. They are greenish-yellow and flushed with purple. The flowers are bell shaped. They are 1-3 cm long. The fruit is a berry. It is purple. It is 2 cm long and fleshy. It contains many seeds.

HABITAT

A temperate plant. It grows in cool, wet forests. It needs well drained soil. It can grow in full sunlight. It can stand light frosts. In Tasmania it grows to 900 m altitude. Hobart Botanical Gardens. Tasmania Herbarium. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seeds do not germinate regularly. They can be grown from cuttings. Getting cuttings to grow is difficult.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants flower from October to January.

NOTES

There are about 25 Billardiera species. They grow in Australia.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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