PLANT FACT SHEET

Celtis laevigata var. reticulata Willd., (Torr.) L. D. Benson

GENUS *Celtis* **FAMILY** Cannabaceae

COMMON NAMES Western Hackberry, Netleaf hackberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are pounded into a paste, seeds and all and eaten with animal fat or corn meal.
They can also be eaten fresh or made into jams and jellies.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree or large shrub. It has a short trunk. The bark is warty. The crown is open and spreading. It grows 6-9 m tall. The trunk can be 30 cm across. The leaves are in 2 rows. They are 2.5-6 cm long by 2-4 cm wide. They vary in shape but are often oval. The base is unequal and rounded or notched. There are 3 main veins. The leaves are dark green and rough above and yellow-green underneath. There is a network of raised veins underneath. The flowers are 3 mm wide and green. There are male and female flowers at the base of young leaves. The fruit are small and pea size. They are orange-red.

HABITAT

It grows in moist soils along streams. It can also grow in deserts. It can grow in arid places. In the southern USA it grows between 450-1800 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 6-10. Arboretum Tasmania. ?

NOTES

There are 70-100 Celtis species. They are mostly in the tropics. There are 8-10 species in tropical America. Also put in the family Ulmaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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