PLANT FACT SHEET

Vaccinium membranaceum Douglas ex Torr.

GENUS *Vaccinium* **FAMILY** Ericaceae

COMMON NAMES Blue huckleberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw. They are also used for pies, dried or in preserves. The fruit can be dried and stored.

DESCRIPTION

An erect shrub. It grows 1 m or more high. The leaves are alternate and simple. They are thin and sword shaped. They are 5 cm long. There are fine teeth along the edge. The leaves turn red in the autumn. The flowers are pinkish white or yellowish-green. They are small and occur singly on short stalks. The flowers are bell shaped. The fruit are large blue berries. They are juicy and sweet. They are 5 mm across. They are edible.

HABITAT

It is a cold temperate plant. It grows near the timberline in the Rocky Mountains. It suits cold, upland places. It can tolerate temperatures down to -40°C. It normally needs moist conditions. It can tolerate drought. It benefits from an acidic organic mulch. It is not tolerant to wind. It does best with a pH of 4.5-6.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is not easy to grow outside in natural environment. It can be grown from seed or by suckers. It does not transplant easily.

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