PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Myoporum tenuifolium G. Forst.

GENUS *Myoporum* **FAMILY** Scrophulariaceae

COMMON NAMES Desert boobialla, Native myrtle, Water Bush

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The small ripe fruit are eaten and are salty-sweet.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized shrub. It grows 3-4 m tall. It can spread 2-3 m wide. It can be larger. The bark is deeply cracked. The leaves are 1.5-10 cm long by 0.6-3.5 cm wide. They are alternate. The leaves are sword shaped. They taper to a fine point. The flowers are small and bell shaped. They are white spotted with purple. They are about 8 mm long. The fruit are 0.4-0.8 cm across. The fruit are red. They can be bitter, salty or sweet. The fruit are wrinkled.

HABITAT

It is a tropical to warm temperate plant and will grow in semi-arid regions. It grows in open woodland and near the seaside in dry areas. It needs well drained soil. It can grow in full sun or light shade. It can stand light frosts. It can be in mangroves along tidal creeks. Coffs Harbour Botanical Gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from treated seed or cuttings.

NOTES

There are 30-35 Myoporum species. Also put in the family Myoporaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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