PLANT FACT SHEET

Nitraria billardierei DC.

GENUS *Nitraria* **FAMILY** Nitrariaceae

COMMON NAMES Nitre bush, Dillon Bush, Wild Grape

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Berries

DESCRIPTION

A small shrub. It grows 1-2 m high and spreads 3-5 m wide. Young growth is hairy. The branches spread widely and often arch over. The small branches are often spiny and tangled. The leaves are 1-4 cm long by 0.1-0.3 cm wide. The leaves are simple and deeply lobed. They are arranged in spirals. The flowers are 0.5 cm across. They are white and occur in small clusters along the branches. The fruit are 1-2 cm long by 0.5-1 cm wide. They are oblong and fleshy. They can be golden, purple or red.

HABITAT

They suit warm temperate regions. It grows in salt deserts. It grows in semi-arid regions. It can grow on alkaline and salty soils. It can be on flooded soils or sand dunes. They are drought tolerant and hardy to frost. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. Seed germinate in 22-50 days. The can be grown from cuttings.

NOTES

There are 9 Nitraria species. These have previously been in the Zygophyllaceae.

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