PLANT FACT SHEET

Trapa natans var. quadrispinosa Roxb.

GENUS *Trapa* **FAMILY** Lythraceae

COMMON NAMES Waterchestnut

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The seeds are eaten raw or cooked.

DESCRIPTION

A plant that grows in water. The leaves are triangle shaped and have coarse teeth. They are 2-4 cm long and 3-6 cm wide. They are shiny and dark green above and reddish-purple and hairy underneath. The leaves are in loose rings. They float on the surface of the water. The leaf stalks are under the water and often have large inflated air sacs. The flowers are white. There are 4 petals about 8 mm long. The fruit are shaped like a top and have 2-4 sharp horns.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. In the Himalayas it grows up to 1700 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

In northeastern India plants flower between July to September and fruit in late summer.

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