PLANT FACT SHEET

Syzygium guineense subsp. guineense (Willd.) DC

GENUS *Syzygium* **FAMILY** Myrtaceae

COMMON NAMES Bushveld Water berry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Root - tea, Bark - tea, Leaves

The very ripe fruit are eaten raw. They are also used for drinks and vinegar.
The young leaves are cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A densely leafy tree. It grows to 10-20 m high. The trunk is 60 cm across. The bark is light grey. It flakes off in patches. The leaves are dark green and occur in opposite pairs. They are 6-16 cm long and have a long tip. The flowers are small and white. They are in dense heads. The fruit are oval and purple-black. They are shiny when ripe. They are 3 cm long and occur in bunches. There are 20-30 fruit in a bunch. The ripe fruit is edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in wooded grassland. In East Africa it grows from sea level to 2,100 m altitude. It fruits best near water. It can grow in coastal sands. It can tolerate fire. It grows in savannah regions.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. They should be sown fresh. Seedlings can be transplanted. It can be grown from suckers. Trees can be cut back ad will re-grow.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow quickly.

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