PLANT FACT SHEET

Hardenbergia violacea (Schneev.) Stearn

GENUS *Hardenbergia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Purple coralpea, False Sarsaparilla

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - tea, Roots, Flowers

A sweet drink can be made by boiling the leaves in water.

DESCRIPTION

A climbing or scrambling plant. It can form large dome shaped mats. It can be 0.9-3 m high and 0.9-2 m wide. The stems are wiry and 2 m long. The leaves are leathery and dark green. The are oval or narrow and have heavy veins. The leaves are 3-10 cm long by 1-5 cm wide. The flowers are mauve or purple and pea-shaped. They are 1 cm across. They occur in stalked branches in the axils of leaves. The fruit is a pod which is oblong and 5 cm long.

HABITAT

It grows in temperate places. It can grow in subtropical and semiarid places. It needs well drained soils. It can grow in full sun or light shade. It can stand heavy frosts. It often occurs along disturbed roadsides. It suits hardiness zones 9-11. Tasmania Herbarium. Melbourne Botanical garden. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or cuttings. Treating the seed with hot water improves germination. It can be pruned after flowering.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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