PLANT FACT SHEET

Eugenia dysenterica (Mart.) DC.

GENUS *Eugenia* **FAMILY** Myrtaceae

COMMON NAMES Cagaita, Cagaiteira

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw. It should only be eaten in small amounts.
They are also used to make drinks, sweets and preserves.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 4-8 m tall. The crown is long and dense. The trunk is twisted and 25-35 cm across. The bark is thick and cracked into squares. The leaves have a scent and short leaf stalks. The leaves are 4-9 cm long by 3-5 cm wide. The flowers are highly fragrant. They can be single or in groups. They are white. The fruit are small and yellow to orange. They are 3-5 cm across. They have a thin skin and pulp that is very juicy and acid. There are 1-3 seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows naturally in the drier scrub areas of Central Brazil. It can grow in poor soils with high acidity and high aluminium levels.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The ripe fruit are harvested and put into a plastic bag to allow them to soften. The seeds are removed and planted fresh. They germinate in 10-15 days.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow slowly. They reach 2 m high in 2 years.

NOTES

There are about 550 Eugenia species. They are mostly in tropical and subtropical South America.
It helps with anti-obesity.

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