PLANT FACT SHEET

Carpobrotus virescens (Haw.) Schwantes

GENUS *Carpobrotus* **FAMILY** Aizoaceae

COMMON NAMES Western pigface, Coastal pigface, Stout pigface

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The sweet succulent fruit are eaten fresh or dried. It has also been used for jam.
The leaves can be boiled and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It is succulent and crawls over the ground. The branches can be 2 m long. The leaves are green or red. They are in opposite pairs and have 3 sides. The leaves are fleshy and up to 6.5 cm long. The flowers are attractive pink. They are 4-6 cm across. They have a white centre. When the petals drop off the fruiting base of the flower swells up. This turns purplish-red. The centre is juicy. It contains seeds in a white pulp.

HABITAT

Temperate. They grow in a coastal or salty environment. It can grow on beaches and sand dunes. It is best in light to medium well-drained soils in an open sunny position. It is resistant to drought and frost.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed, cuttings or division of the stems which have rooted.

NOTES

There are about 25 Carpobrotus species. Also put in the family Mesembryanthemaceae.

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