PLANT FACT SHEET

Bursaria spinosa Cav.

GENUS *Bursaria* **FAMILY** Pittosporaceae

COMMON NAMES Australian Blackthorn, Sweet Bursaria

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: flower - nectar, Seeds

DESCRIPTION

An erect shrub or small tree. It grows up to 3.5-10 m tall. There are many branches in the upper part. The small branches and shoots end in spines. The leaves occur in clusters. The leaves are oval or sword shaped and rather thin. They are 1-5 cm long. The flowers occur in branched flower clusters which form a cone shape. These are at the tips of branches. The flowers have 5 narrow oblong petals. They are white and star like. The fruit is a heart-shaped brittle capsule. These dry capsules tend to hang on the plant after the seed have fallen. There are both large leafed and small leafed kinds.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate plant. It grows in coastal sands and on dry hillsides. It will grow in most soils. It is best in an open sunny position. It is resistant to drought and frost. It suits hardiness zones 8-11. Melbourne Botanical gardens. Tasmania Herbarium. In Wittunga Botanical Gardens Adelaide. On Mt Roland. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seeds or cuttings. Cuttings are slow to grow.

Harvesting and Seed Production

They are fast growing but not very long lived. Flowers occur from November to January.

NOTES

There are 6 Bursaria species. They grow in Australia.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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