PLANT FACT SHEET

Poisonous

This plant, or parts of it, can be poisonous. Do not eat it unless you know which parts are safe and how they must be prepared.

Myoporum laetum G. Forst.

GENUS *Myoporum* **FAMILY** Scrophulariaceae

COMMON NAMES Ngaio, New Zealand mousehole tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

Caution: The fruit and leaves contain a liver toxin.

DESCRIPTION

A large shrub or small tree. It grows 4.5-9 m high. The leaves are bright green and fleshy. They are 8-10 cm long. The leaves are sword shaped or oblong and have sticky shoot tips. The flowers are bell-shaped and white with purple spots. The fruit are deep red. They are juicy when ripe. They are 5-7 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate to subtropical plant. It is native to New Zealand. It grows on exposed sites. It can tolerate windy conditions. It can grow in poor soils. In Argentina it grows below 500 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 9-11.

NOTES

It has been used in medicine. Also put in the family Myoporaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/707bab46-bd0a-4668-a223-2ae9e0c85563