PLANT FACT SHEET

Prunus spinosa L.

GENUS *Prunus* **FAMILY** Rosaceae

COMMON NAMES Plum, Blackthorn, Sloe

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Leaves - tea

The ripe fruit are eaten raw. They are astringent. They are less astringent after frost. They are also used for jellies, jam and wine and used to flavour gin. The fruit are boiled with water for juice.
The unripe fruit are also pickled. The ripe fruit are pickled with onions or garlic.
They are also dried.
The leaves are used to adulterate tea.
The flowers are edible and can be crystallised.

DESCRIPTION

A large shrub. It can grow to a small tree. It is often only 4 m high. It develops suckers. It loses its leaves during the winter. It is thorny. The leaves are small and alternate. They are dull above and hairy underneath. Flowers have 5 petals and red tipped anthers. The flowers are white. They appear before the leaves. The fruit are blue-black. They are berry sized.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows on the edges of scrub woodland and in hedges. It suits hardiness zones 4-10. Tasmania Herbarium.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants spread by suckers. Plants can be grown by seeds.

NOTES

There are about 200 Prunus species.

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