PLANT FACT SHEET

Lycium shawii Roemer & Schultes

GENUS *Lycium* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES Desert thorn, African honey-thorn

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The leaves are chopped and cooked as a vegetable and eaten with other greens.
Caution: The fruit should only be used with caution.

DESCRIPTION

A thorny shrub. It grows 1.5 m high. It loses its leaves during drought. The leaves are spoon shaped and leathery. They are 2-3.5 cm long by 1 cm wide. The flowers can be pink, blue or white. They are on stalks in the axils of leaves. The fruit are orange-red berries. They are edible.

HABITAT

It grows in Mediterranean climates. In Bahrain it grows in gravelly and stony soil in desert areas. It grows between 800-3,000 m above sea level. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall between 0-100 mm. It grows in the Sahara. It can grow in arid places. It is highly salt tolerant.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed or from stem cuttings.

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