PLANT FACT SHEET

Celastrus paniculatus Willd.

GENUS *Celastrus* **FAMILY** Celastraceae

COMMON NAMES Black-oil tree, Intellect tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Flowers

The unripe fruit are boiled and eaten as a vegetable. The ripe fruit are eaten raw.
The young leaves are also cooked as a vegetable. They are used in soup.
The flowers are cooked as a vegetable. They are boiled and the water changed then cooked as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A sprawling shrub or large woody climber. The stems can be 23 cm across. The bark is corky. The leaves vary. They can be oval or round. They are 5-11 cm long by 3-7 cm wide. The base is wedge shaped or rounded. The flowers are in large long drooping groups at the ends of branches. Male and female flowers are separate. The fruit is a capsule 9-12 mm across. It has 3 valves with 3-6 seeds. The seeds are yellowish-brown. They have a red fleshy layer around them.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In China it grows on forest slopes between 200-2,000 m above sea level. In Yunnan. It occurs in the Western Ghats in India.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In India in the Ghats the fruit are available June to December.

NOTES

The leaves and sap are used in medicine. There are about 30 Celastrus species.

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