PLANT FACT SHEET

Ilex verticillata (L.) A. Gray

GENUS *Ilex* **FAMILY** Aquifoliaceae

COMMON NAMES Winterberry, Black-alder, Common winterberry, Coral berry, Dogberry, Fever bush, Michigan holly

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Leaves - tea

The leaves are used for tea. They are dried slowly and crumbled then used for tea. They do not contain caffeine.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It develops suckers. It loses its leaves during the year. The twigs are light brown and ridged. The leaves are oval and 4-10 cm long. They are finely toothed. The leaves are dark green above and hairy underneath. The flowers are in small clusters in the axils of leaves. The fruit are berry like. They are red or orange and 5-8 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows near swamps and along streams. It suits hardiness zones 3-9. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed or by cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 400 Ilex species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 731

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 23

Farrar, J.L., 1995, Trees of the Northern United States and Canada. Iowa State University press/Ames p 274

Harter, J.(Ed.), 1988, Plants. 2400 copyright free illustrations. Dover p 24.16

Hedrick, U.P., 1919, (Ed.), Sturtevant's edible plants of the world. p 354

Hibbert, M., 2002, The Aussie Plant Finder 2002, Florilegium. p 146

Kiple, K.F. & Ornelas, K.C., (eds), 2000, The Cambridge World History of Food. CUP p 1882

Manual ed. 2:264. 1856

Ryan, S., 2008, Dicksonia. Rare Plants Manual. Hyland House. p 33

Saunders, C.F., 1948, Edible and Useful Wild Plants. Dover. New York. p 164

Tozer, F., 2007, The Uses of Wild Plants. Green Man Publishing. p 102

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/7a711d61-52b4-4938-b3fc-ea0d1f279bd5