PLANT FACT SHEET

Solanum virginianum L.

GENUS *Solanum* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES Thorny nightshade, Yellow-berried nightshade

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Vegetable, Root

The unripe fruit are eaten. The fruit are used as a vegetable in curries.
The leaves are eaten as a potherb.
Caution: It contains solasodine the raw material for hormones.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It can be erect or creeping. It can be woody at the base. It grows 50-70 cm tall. It has needle like prickles. It is also hairy. The leaves are in unequal pairs. They are 4-9 cm long by 2-5 cm wide. There are usually 5-9 lobes. The flowers are in groups 4-7 cm long. They are blue to purple. The fruit is a pale yellow berry. It is 1-2 cm across. The seeds are almost kidney shaped.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows on sandy river beaches between 100-1,300 m above sea level in southern China. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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