PLANT FACT SHEET

Elaeagnus pungens Thunb.

GENUS *Elaeagnus* **FAMILY** Elaeagnaceae

COMMON NAMES Silverthorn, Silverberry, Thorny Elaeagnus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The fruit are eaten when fully ripe. They are also used for jam, soft drinks and liqueurs.
The seeds are also eaten. It can be eaten fresh or cooked. seed

DESCRIPTION

It is an evergreen shrub or scrambling climber. It grows 3-4.5 m high and wide. The branches are long, horizontal and prickly. The leaves are oval and glossy. They are dark green above and silvery underneath. The flowers are very small. They are cream and bell-shaped. They have a scent. The fruit are red. They are 1 cm across. Some named varieties occur.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is frost hardy. It can grow in a range of soils, including clays. It can grow in shade. It it drought tolerant and tolerates coastal exposure. It often grows near the sea. It suits hardiness zones 7-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In China plants flower in September to December and fruit April to June.

NOTES

There are 45 Elaeagnus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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