PLANT FACT SHEET

Hibiscus radiatus Cav.

GENUS *Hibiscus* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Ruby hibiscus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

The sour leaves are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows from 0.5-2 m tall. It can be upright or lie over. The leaf stalk is 3-11 cm long and spiny. The leaf blade is wide and often with 3 lobes on the lower stem and 3-5 lobes arranged like fingers on a hand higher up the stem. There are teeth around the edge. Leaves are 5-12 cm long by 4-15 cm wide. The flowers occur singly in the axils of leaves. Flowers are purple or red. The fruit is a round capsule about 15 mm across. It has flat long spines. The seeds are triangle shaped. They are brown and about 4 mm across.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the rainforest. In Argentina it grows below 500 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 220 Hibiscus species.

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