PLANT FACT SHEET

Rubus idaeus L.

GENUS *Rubus* **FAMILY** Rosaceae

COMMON NAMES European Red Raspberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Twigs, Leaves - drink

The fruit are eaten raw. They are also used in jams, drinks and for sweets.
Young leaves can be cooked and eaten as a vegetable.
Dried leaves are used as a substitute for tea.

DESCRIPTION

A small cane-like shrub. It grows 1.5-2 m tall. The branches are red or brown. They have a few prickles. The leaves are often divided into 5-7 leaflets. The flowers are white. They can be in the axils of leaves or at the ends of branches. The fruit are red or orange and half round. They are 1-1.4 cm across. There are many named varieties.

HABITAT

It is a cold temperate climate plant. It needs deep well drained soil. The soil should be rich in humus. It needs shelter from wind and can grow in part shade. A mild summer and cool to cold winter is best. It needs about 600 hours of cold below 7°C each year. It will grow in high mountains in Java. It will grow as far as 70°N in Scandinavia. It suits hardiness zones 3-9.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Rooted cuttings are used. Soft wood cuttings can be used. Fruit are usually produced on one year old canes. After harvesting the fruit bearing canes are cut at ground level and removed.

NOTES

There are about 250 Rubus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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