PLANT FACT SHEET

Solanum villosum Mill.

GENUS *Solanum* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES Hairy Nightshade, Red-fruited nightshade

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Vegetable

The leaves and shoots are cooked and eaten.
The ripe fruit are eaten raw. They are also used for chutney.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It is like Blackberried nightshade but the stems are white and hairy in their upper sections. The flowers are in clusters of 3-5. The fruit are red, orange or yellow when ripe. They are 1 cm across. The seeds can often be seen through the fruit wall.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. In Kenya it grows in coastal zones. It grows from sea level to 2,400 m above sea level. The best temperature is 20-30°C. An annual rainfall of 500-1,200 mm is suitable.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. Under ideal conditions seeds germinate in 7 days. Stem cuttings can be used.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants flower after 5-8 weeks.

NOTES

There are about 1400 Solanum species.

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