PLANT FACT SHEET

Rhus chinensis Miller

GENUS *Rhus* **FAMILY** Anacardiaceae

COMMON NAMES Chinese gall, Chinese sumac, Nutgall tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit - flavouring, Leaves, Flowers, Seeds

The fruit are used to make soup. They are very sour. The fruit are boiled and used in pickles. They are also boiled with sugar and used as a drink. The fruit are also used as a substitute for rennet in preparation of curd.
The pounded seeds are added to foods as a spice and in chilli sauce. The seeds are used in chutney.
The young shoots are eaten as a vegetable. They are boiled with rice.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It loses its leaves during the year. It grows 2-4 m high. Its shoots are downy. The branches have spines. The leaves have leaflets along the stalk. The leaves are 40 cm long. There are 7-13 leaflets on a stalk. The leaflets are about 5-12 cm long by 2-5 cm wide. The leaves turn red in autumn. The flowers are white. They are in cone shaped clusters. The fruit are round. They are bright orange-red.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate plant. It grows on forested hilly areas. In Borneo it grows up to 2,800 m above sea level. In Sikkim it grows between 600-1,800 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 8-11. Mt Cootha Botanical Gardens. Arboretum Tasmania. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

NOTES

There are about 200 Rhus species. It is also used in medicine.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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