PLANT FACT SHEET

Grewia optiva J. R. Drummon ex Burret

GENUS *Grewia* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw or cooked.
They are also used for fruit drinks.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows to 12 m high. It has whitish bark. The leaves have stalks. They are oval or sword shaped. They taper to a point and have teeth around the edge. The leaves are rough above and hairy underneath. The base is unequally rounded with 3 veins. The flowers are white. They have a scent. They occur in an umbrella shaped or flat topped flower arrangement. The fruit is fleshy with a hard covering around the seed. They are four lobed. They are black when ripe. They are rough with scattered stiff white hairs.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. In Nepal it grows to about 1800 m altitude. In Pakistan it grows between 500-2,500 m altitude. Plants need full sun. Young plants can be cut back by frosts.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The fruit are rubbed and washed to remove the seeds. There are 2-4 seeds in each fruit. Seeds can be stored fro 12 months. Seeds are soaked in cooling boiling water for 12 hours. Seeds can be sown directly or put in a nursery and transplanted. A spacing of 3-5 m is suitable. Plants can be pruned or cut back.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In north India plants flower and fruit August to September.

NOTES

There are about 200 Grewia species. They are mostly tropical. The fruit of most may be edible. These were in the Sparrmanniaceae and the Tiliaceae.

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