PLANT FACT SHEET

Vaccinium scoparium Leiberg ex Coville

GENUS *Vaccinium* **FAMILY** Ericaceae

COMMON NAMES Grouseberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves - tea

The fruit are eaten raw with sugar and cream. They can be cooked into a sauce or made into jams, jellies, muffins, bread or pancakes. Fruit can be dried for later use.
Fruit are used to flavour other foods and to thicken soups.
Fresh or dried leaves can be used for tea.

DESCRIPTION

A small shrub. It grows 10-20 cm high. The branches are angular and they remain green for several years. It has rhizomes that form shoots along their length. It loses its leaves during the year. The leaves are about 1 cm long. They are bright green on both sides. There are fine teeth around the edge. The flowers occur singly in the axils of the leaves. They are small and urn shaped. They are pale pink. The fruit are bright coral red berries. They are 5 mm across. They are tart but edible.

HABITAT

It is a cold temperate plant. It grows near the timberline on moist alpine slopes in the Rocky Mountains. It is very cold hardy.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

The fruit are small and are brushed off the plants into a mat then separated from trash by winnowing in the wind.

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