PLANT FACT SHEET

Berberis thunbergii DC.

GENUS *Berberis* **FAMILY** Berberidaceae

COMMON NAMES Japanese barberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

CAUTION: Plants in this group are slightly poisonous.
The fruit are eaten fresh and used for jams and jellies. They are also dried.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 1.2-1.8 m tall. It is spiny and loses its leaves during the year. It spreads 1.8-2.5 m wide. The leaves are small and neatly rounded. The leaves turn bright red or orange in autumn. The flowers are straw coloured with dull red stripes. They are small and bell shaped. The fruit are small oval berries which turn scarlet. Several named varieties occur.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is frost hardy. It is native to Japan. It suits light to medium well-drained soils. It is resistant to drought. It suits hardiness zones 4-9. Arboretum Tasmania. Burnie Rhodo gardens. Hobart Botanical Gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings. The hardwood cuttings are taken in winter.

NOTES

There are about 450-500 Berberis species. This one can become invasive.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/8b896a54-0a54-4ba0-a5cf-3776e7d5822b