PLANT FACT SHEET

Celtis australis L.

GENUS *Celtis* **FAMILY** Cannabaceae

COMMON NAMES European Hackberry, Southern Nettle tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Oil

The ripe fruit are eaten raw or cooked. They are also made into wine and used to make jam.

DESCRIPTION

A tree which grows 25 m tall. It loses its leaves during the year. The crown is rounded. The trunk is thick. The young branches are downy. The bark is smooth and grey. The leaves are oval or sword shaped. They are 15 cm long by 5 cm wide. They have a sharp point. There are teeth along the edge. The leaf stalk is short. The male and female flowers are small and greenish. They can occur singly or in small clusters in the axils of leaves. The fruit are small, round and berry-like. They are dark purple when ripe. They are 1 cm across. They are sweet and edible.

HABITAT

It grows in temperate places. It is native to S.W. Asia and S. Europe. It grows on warm, dry, rocky slopes. It can grow in arid soils. It does better in soils with lime. It can only tolerate light frosts. In the Indian Himalayas it grows between 1,300-1,500 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 8-11. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. It can also be grown from suckers near the base and from cuttings or layering.

NOTES

There are 70-100 Celtis species. They are mostly in the tropics. There are 8-10 species in tropical America. It can become invasive. Also put in the family Ulmaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Agarwal, R. & Chandra, V., 2019, Diversity of wild edible plants in the Mandal-Chopta forest, Uttarakhand. Journal of Medicinal Plants Studies 2019; 7(1): 89-92

Ahmad, I., et al, 2011, Ethnobotanical Study of Tehsil Kabal, Swat District, KPK, Pakistan. Hindawi Publishing Corporation Journal of Botany Volume 2011, Article ID 368572, 9 pages

Ahmad, K. & Pieroni, A., 2016, Folk knowledge of wild food plants among the tribal communities of Thakht-e-Sulaiman Hills, North-West Pakistan. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine, 12:17

Akbulut, S., 2022, Importance of edible wild plants in world food security: The case of Turkey. Int J Agric Sc Food Technol 8(3): 209-213.

Ambasta S.P. (Ed.), 2000, The Useful Plants of India. CSIR India. p 114

Amin, M. et al, 2023, Edible wild plant species used by different linguistic groups of Kohistan Upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine 19:6 p 8

Bahuguna, A. et al, 2010, Floristic Diversity and Indigenous uses of Forest Vegetation of Dabka Watershed in Indian Central Himalayas. Ethnobotanical Leaflets 14:491-510 (As Ciltis)

Barkatullah and Ibrar, M., 2011, Plants profile of Malakand Pass Hills, District Malakand, Pakistan. African Journal of Biotechnology Vol. 10 (73) pp. 16521-16535

Benitez, G., et al, 2023, Wild Edible Plants of Andalusia: Traditional Uses and Potential of Eating Wild in a Highly Diverse Region. Plants 2023, 12, 1218 p 26

Bhatia, H., et al, 2021, Wild Edible Fruits and Vegetables of Himachal Pradesh. Journal of Research: The Bede Athenaeum Indian Journals.com March 2021, Vol. 12 No. 1 (53-66)

Blamey, M and Grey-Wilson, C., 2005, Wild flowers of the Mediterranean. A & C Black London. p 34

Blanco-Salas, J., et al, 2019, Wild Plants Potentially Used in Human Food in the Protected Area "Sierra Grande de Hornachos" of Extremadura (Spain). Sustainability 2019, 11, 456

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 233

Boudraa, S. et al, 2010, Mineral and vitamin composition of fruits of five underexploited species in Algeria: Fruits. Vol. 65:75-84

Brickell, C. (Ed.), 1999, The Royal Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants. Convent Garden Books. p 245

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 353

Della, A., et al, 2006, An ethnobotanical survey of wild edible plants of Paphos and Larnaca countryside of Cyprus. J. Ethnobiol. Ethnomed. 2:34

Dolina, K. & Luczaj, L., 2014, Wild food plants used on the Dubrovnik coast (south-eastern Croatia) Acta Soc Bot Pol 83(3):175–181

Ertug, F, Yenen Bitkiler. Resimli Türkiye Florası -I- Flora of Turkey - Ethnobotany supplement

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 196

Ethnobotanical Study of Tehsil Kabal, Swat District, KPK, Pakistan, Table 1

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 75

Flora of Australia, Volume 3, Hamamelidales to Casuarinales, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra (1989) p 10

Glowinski, L., 1999, The Complete Book of Fruit Growing in Australia. Lothian. p 182

Gonzalez, J. A., et al, 2011, The consumption of wild and semi-domesticated edible plants in the Arribes del Duero (Salamanca-Zamora, Spain): an ananalysis of traditional knowledge. Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution 58:991-1006

Gunes, S. et al, 2018, Survey of wild food plants for human consumption in Karaisali (Adana-Turkey). Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge. Vol. 17(2), April 2018, pp 290-298

Gurdal, B. & Kultur, S., 2014, The edible and miscellaneous useful plants in Marmaris (Southwest Turkey). İstanbul Ecz. Fak. Derg. / J. Fac. Pharm. Istanbul 44(1) 2014 pp.69-78

Hedrick, U.P., 1919, (Ed.), Sturtevant's edible plants of the world. p 177

Hermandez Bermejo, J.E., and Leon, J. (Eds.), 1994, Neglected Crops. 1492 from a different perspective. FAO Plant Production and Protection Series No 26. FAO, Rome. p 264

Hibbert, M., 2002, The Aussie Plant Finder 2002, Florilegium. p 62

Hussain, S. T., et al, 2023, Ethnobotany for food security and ecological transition: wild food plant gathering and consumption among four cultural groups in Kurram District, NW Pakistan. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine 19:35

http://www.planthogar.net/fichas/535/almez-australis

Jabeen, A., et al, 2009, Indigenous uses of economically important flora of Margallah Hills National Park, Islamabad, Pakistan. African Journal of Biotechnology Vol. 8 (5), pp. 763-784 (As Celtis eriocarpa)

John, L., & Stevenson, V., 1979, The Complete Book of Fruit. Angus & Robertson p 289

Kar, A., et al, 2013, Wild Edible Plant Resources used by the Mizos of Mizoram, India. Kathmandu University Journal of Science, Engineering and Technology. Vol. 9, No. 1, July, 2013, 106-126

Khalid, N., et al, 2023, Wild food plants gathered by four cultural groups in North Waziristan, Pakistan. Genet Resour Crop Evol. 70:1243–1276

Full reference list (28 more) at https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/8c8887d1-23c1-46c8-95e3-718ef64693a1

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/8c8887d1-23c1-46c8-95e3-718ef64693a1