PLANT FACT SHEET

Sorbus americana Marshall

GENUS *Sorbus* **FAMILY** Rosaceae

COMMON NAMES American mountain ash, American rowan-tree, Roundwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are bitter. They are dried and ground into a paste. After frost they become more palatable.
The fruit are also used for syrups and jams.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous shrub or small tree. It grows up to 8-10 m high. It has a short trunk. The bark is grey and smooth. The leaves are alternate and compound. The leaflets are curved and sword shaped. They taper to the tip. They are 5-8 cm long. They are thin and light green above and paler underneath. They are more narrow than showy mountain ash. (S. decora). The flowers have petals which are broadest toward the tip. They are 3-4 mm long. They are in dense flat clusters. The fruit are bright coral-red. They are 4-6 mm across. They have thin flesh.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is native to E. North America. They grow on moist sites near swamps and also on dry soils on rocky hillsides. It grows up to 1830 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 2-9.

NOTES

There are about 75 Sorbus species.

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