PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Solanum mammosum L.

GENUS *Solanum* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES Macawbush, Love apple, Nipplefruit

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Vegetable

The leaves are cooked as a vegetable.
The ripe fruit are eaten.
Caution: The green fruit are possibly poisonous.

DESCRIPTION

A herb or shrub. It grows 1.5 m high and spreads 0.9 m wide. It keeps growing from year to year. The whole plant has woolly hairs. There are prickles. The leaves are usually in pairs. The leaves are broadly oval and 5-12 cm long by 5-10 cm wide. They have prickles on the veins. There can be 5 lobes. The flowers are near the axils of the leaves and in groups of 3-4. They are purple. The fruit are yellow berries that are pear shaped and 5-7 cm long by 3-4 cm wide. They have lumps near the base. The ripe fruit are bright orange.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It is native to tropical America. In southern China it grows between 200-1,300 m above sea level. In XTBG Yunnan. It suits hardiness zones 10-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is normally grown from seed.

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