PLANT FACT SHEET

Solanum indicum L.

GENUS *Solanum* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES White sparrow, Indian nightshade

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit

The fruit are used to make fermented drink.
The ripe fruit are also used to make soup and sauces. They are fried and eaten. They are bitter.
The half ripe fruit are used in curries and as a vegetable.
The leaves are cooked and eaten as a vegetable.
The harvested fruit can be stored for 7 days.

DESCRIPTION

A small shrub. It grows 1-3 m tall. The stems and branches are thorny. They are yellowish-green. The leaves are 8-12 cm long by 6-8 cm wide. The flowers are blue to purple. The fruit are round and 1 cm across. They are red when ripe. The seeds are 2.5 mm wide and kidney shaped.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in open spaces and along roadsides. It is also cultivated. In Yunnan in China it grows between 1100-1450 m above sea level. It grows in secondary forest. It grows in wetlands.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

In India the fruit are available September to December.

NOTES

There are about 1400 Solanum species. It is also used in medicine.

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