



PLANT FACT SHEET

Solanum scabrum Mill.

GENUS *Solanum* FAMILY Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES Garden huckleberry, African nightshade

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Vegetable

The very ripe fruit can be eaten raw. They are also stewed and used in jams, jellies, sauces, pies and preserves. They are usually cooked in baking soda first to remove the bitterness, then prepared with sugar and lemon juice. The leaves are used as a potherb. They can also be dried and stored for use in soups.

DESCRIPTION

A bushy plant. It grows 60 cm high and spreads 45 cm wide. It grows each year from seed. The leaves are broadly oval. The flowers are small and white. The fruit are black berries. They are 18 mm wide. The fruit are purplish-black.

HABITAT

A tropical and subtropical plant. It grows in warm humid forest. Seed germinate best at 15-30°C and growth is best between 20-30°C. It grows from sea level to 2,000 m above sea level. It needs 500 mm rainfall. It suits hardiness zones 9-12. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds or cuttings. Seeds can be sown directly or put in a nursery and transplanted.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The leaves are highly perishable after harvest.

NOTES

There are about 1400 *Solanum* species.

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