PLANT FACT SHEET

Empetrum atropurpureum Fernald. & Wiegand

GENUS *Empetrum* **FAMILY** Ericaceae

COMMON NAMES Purple Crowberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit can be eaten raw. The flavour is improved by freezing. They are usually eaten with sugar. They are also fermented for alcoholic drinks. Caution: Alcohol is a cause of cancer.

DESCRIPTION

A heath like plant. It is an evergreen shrub. It is low growing. The leaves are simple, alternate and narrow. The flowers occur singly in the axils of leaves. They fruit is small fleshy and berry like. They are dark red to purple when ripe. There can be up to 9 hard white seeds.

HABITAT

They grow in cool temperate regions. They can grow on exposed, windswept sites. They do best on moist, lime free soil. They need an open sunny position.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 6 Empetrum species.

REFERENCES

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 535 (As Empetrum eamesii subsp. atropurpureum)

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 94 (As Empetrum eamesii subsp. atropurpureum)

Fisk, J. R. & Hoover, E., 2015, Wild Fruits of Minnesota. A Field Guide. University of Minnesota p 36 (As Empetrum eamesii subsp. atropurpureum)

Plants for a Future database, The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0NG, UK. http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/ (As Empetrum eamesii subsp. atropurpureum)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/9b17c98f-cb8b-4b31-80df-1c710cf753db