PLANT FACT SHEET

Solanum aethiopicum L.

GENUS *Solanum* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES Scarlet eggplant

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit, Vegetable

The fruit are cooked and eaten. They are also used to flavour other foods. They can be pickled.
The young shoots, stripped of flowers and buds are sliced and finely cut for use in soups.

DESCRIPTION

A herb or shrub. It grows 1-2 m tall. It can grow from 2 to several years. The leaves have shallow lobes. There are 2-6 flowers. The fruit are large, round and uneven shape. They are orange-red. Fruit shape can vary. There are 3 main sub groups. One is mainly for fruit and the other is mainly for leaves.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It can grow in arid places. It grows in the savannah. In China it grows between 400-1,800 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. Seeds are collected from fully ripe fruit. They are washed and then dried on paper. They can be stored in a dry cool container out of the sunlight. Seeds can be sown in nursery boxes and transplanted. A spacing of about 1 m is suitable. Seedlings are transplanted after 30-35 days. Plants do not need staking.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Yields of fruit can be 40 t / hectare

NOTES

There are about 1400 Solanum species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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