PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Gaultheria fragrantissima* Wall.

**GENUS** *Gaultheria* **FAMILY** Ericaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Wintergreen Tea, Fragrant wintergreen

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Fruit, Leaves - tea

The ripe fruit are eaten raw.
The leaves are used for tea drinks.

## DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows to about 3 m tall. The leaves are 3-13.5 cm long and 1.5-5 cm wide. They are sword shaped and taper to the tip. They are leathery and have teeth along the edge. They are bright green but develop a brown underside. They have a smell of wintergreen when crushed. The flowers are bell shaped. They are 6 mm wide. The flowers are whitish. They have a scent. The fruit are round and purplish when ripe.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Nepal they grow between 1200-2600 m altitude. In Northeastern India it grows between 2,000-2,800 m above sea level. The grow on rocky hillsides in forested areas. It suits hardiness zones 9-10.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

In India plants flower December to January and fruit May to October.

## NOTES

There are about 170 Gaultheria species.

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