PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Phytolacca dodecandra L'Her.

GENUS *Phytolacca* **FAMILY** Phytolaccaceae

COMMON NAMES Pokeberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Shoots, Stems, Fruit, Vegetable

The young leafy shoots are cooked and eaten. They are finely cut before cooking. Older leaves are poisonous. Caution: The leaves are poisonous to animals. (Often animals forget to cook their food!)

DESCRIPTION

A woody climber or a spreading shrub. The stems are slender and can be 5-8 m long. The leaves are alternate. They are 9-12 cm long. They are oval and taper to the tip. They are wedge shaped or rounded at the base. The flowering stalks are long and erect. They are white to creamy-green.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in mid altitude and mountain rainforest. It suits humid locations. It grows between 600-2,800 m above sea level. It often grows on termite mounds.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seeds or cuttings.

NOTES

There are 25 Phytolacca species. The berry can be used to control snails causing schistosomiasis.

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