PLANT FACT SHEET

Gaultheria mucronata (L. f.) Hook. & Arn.

GENUS *Gaultheria* **FAMILY** Ericaceae

COMMON NAMES Prickly heath

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 60-120 cm high. The stems are wiry. They form a thicket. It develops suckers. The leaves are glossy and deep green. They are 12 mm long and have spiny tips. The flowers are white and urn-shaped but often tinged with pink. The flowers are in clusters and hang down. Male and female flowers are usually borne on separate plants. The fruit are marble-like. The fruit can be white, pink, purplish or red. They are 6-9 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is frost hardy. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 1,100 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 6-10. Arboretum Tasmania.

NOTES

There are about 170 Gaultheria species.
It contains antioxidants.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Andean Ethnobotanical Collections. (As Pernettya)

Chamorro, M. F., & Ladio, A., 2020, Native and exotic plants with edible fleshy fruits utilized in Patagonia and their role as sources of local functional foods. BMC Complementary Medicine and Therapies. 20:155

Cordero, S. E., Abello, L. A., & Galvez, F. L., 2017, Plantas silvestres comestibles y medicinales de Chile y otras partes del mundo. CORMA p 69

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 626

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 343

Hibbert, M., 2002, The Aussie Plant Finder 2002, Florilegium. p 108

J. Bot. (Hooker) 1:281. 1834

Joyce, D., 1998, The Garden Plant Selector. Ryland, Peters and Small. p 142

Leon-Lobos, P., et al, 2022, Patterns of Traditional and Modern Uses of Wild Edible Native Plants of Chile: Challenges and Future Perspectives. Plants (Basel) v 11 (6) Table S1

Plants for a Future database, The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0NG, UK. http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/

Rapoport, E., H., et al, 2003, Plantas Nativas Comestibles de la Patagonia Andina Argentino/Chilena Parte 1, Department de Ecologi Centro Regional Universitario Briloche p 34

Reis, S. V. and Lipp, F. L., 1982, New Plant Sources for Drugs and Foods from the New York Botanical Garden herbarium. Harvard. p 228 (As Pernettya mucronata)

Ryan, S., 2008, Dicksonia. Rare Plants Manual. Hyland House. p 28

Velasquez, P. & Montenegro, G., 2017, Chilean Endemic/Native Plant Resources as Functional and Superfoods. Chp. 6 in Superfood and Functional Food - An Overview of Their Processing and Utilization

www.chileflora.com

Young, J., (Ed.), 2001, Botanica's Pocket Trees and Shrubs. Random House. p 407

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/9faffe3c-edf3-463c-9a2f-4883ff58da8d