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.

Ligustrum lucidum W. T. Aiton

GENUS *Ligustrum* **FAMILY** Oleaceae

COMMON NAMES Chinese Privet, Broad-leaved Privet

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit

Caution: The fruit are reported to be poisonous if eaten in large amounts. They are used in medicine.
The fruit are also used in brewing.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub or small tree. It can be 9-25 m tall. It has glossy dark green leaves. The leaf stalk is 1-3 cm long. The leaf blade is oval and 6-17 cm long by 3-8 cm wide. They are leathery or papery. The base is rounded and it tapers to the tip. The flowers are cream and in frothy sprays. They are at the ends of branches. The flower sprays are 8-20 cm long by 8-25 cm wide. The fruit are blue-black. They are kidney shaped. They are 7-10 mm long by 4-6 mm wide.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate to subtropical plant. It is native to China, Japan and Korea. They need well drained soil. In China it grows in woods below 2900 m altitude. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 1,400 m above sea level. It can tolerate shade. It suits hardiness zones 7-11. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed, cuttings or by layering.

NOTES

There are about 50 Ligustrum species. The fruit is used as a tonic. It can be invasive.

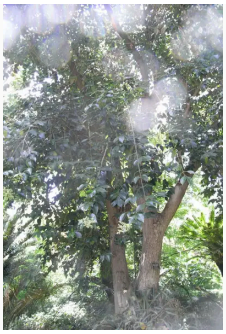
PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/ac89855c-6a47-4dc2-a181-5a4c02df39f1