PLANT FACT SHEET

Bougainvillea spectabilis Willd.

GENUS *Bougainvillea* **FAMILY** Nyctaginaceae

COMMON NAMES Purple bougainvillea

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flower bracts

The flower bracts are used in salads and for a drink.
CAUTION The correct type of bougainvillea must be used.

DESCRIPTION

A climber. As a shrub it can grow 5 m tall and 6 m wide. It has curved thorns. Plants branched often. The leaves are large and oval or round. They are hairy underneath. The flower bracts are rusty red and purple. The flowers are cream and have long hairy tubes.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It does best with sunlight and warmth. It is best with a night temperature of 18-20°C and a day temperature of 24-32°C. It cannot stand frost. It is best in a fertile, well drained soil. It cannot stand waterlogging. It suits slightly acidic soils of pH 5.5-6.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from cuttings. They can also be grown by air-layering. It can be grown as a hedge.

NOTES

There are 14-18 Bougainvillea species.

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