PLANT FACT SHEET

Cissus hypoglauca A. Gray

GENUS *Cissus* **FAMILY** Vitaceae

COMMON NAMES Five-leaf Water Vine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Stems - water

The fruit are eaten. The skin needs to be avoided. They can be cooked or used for jam.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen vine. It climbs to 4-25 m high and spreads 2 m across. The stem is woody, thick and four angled. It has tendrils. It is a vigorous climber. The young shoots have rusty hairs. The leaves are dark green on top and bluish green underneath. They have 5 oval leaflets arranged like fingers on a hand and on long leaf stalks. The leaflets are 5-8 cm long. They are unequal in shape. The flowers are yellow and in dense heads opposite the leaves. The flowers are about 4 mm across. The fruit are bluish black and juicy. They are round berries 2 cm across. They occur in bunches along the stem. There are 1-4 seeds per fruit and they are 4-7 mm across. The berries are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It prefers medium to heavy soils. It suits a protected, shady position. It is frost resistant but drought tender. It needs a temperature above 7°C to grow. It grows in rainforests. It suits hardiness zones 9-11. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from fresh seeds or cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The fruit are ripe March to May.

NOTES

There are about 200-350 Cissus species. There are about 75 species in tropical America.

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