PLANT FACT SHEET

Melancium campestre Naudin

GENUS *Melancium* **FAMILY** Cucurbitaceae

COMMON NAMES Melancia-do-campo

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten fresh or used for juice.

DESCRIPTION

A pumpkin family plant. It is a herb that keeps growing from year to year. The stems lie along the ground. They are hairy. The leaves are simple with 3-5 irregular lobes. They are 5-6 cm long and hairy. Flowers are separately male and female but on the same plant. The female flowers occur singly in the axils of leaves and several male flowers occur in a group. The fruit are round and 10 cm across. The pulp is juicy and sweet.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the savannas all over Brazil. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 1,000 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

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