PLANT FACT SHEET

Diospyros australis (R. Br.) Hiern

GENUS *Diospyros* **FAMILY** Ebenaceae

COMMON NAMES Black plum, Grey plum, Yellow persimmon

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 4-10 m high. The leaves are oval with a blunt tip. They are dark green and shiny above and pale green underneath. They are 2.5-8 cm long by 1-2.5 cm wide. They occur in two regular rows along the branch. The male and female flowers are separate. Male flowers are yellowish and 0.5 cm long. They are in clusters in the axils of leaves. Female flowers are 0.8 cm long and occur either singly or 2-3 in the axils of leaves. Flowers are on the underside of the stem. Fruit are black, oval and fleshy. They are 1.5-2 cm long. There is a single seed about 0.9 cm long. The fruit is edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. They need moist conditions and a well-drained soil. Shade is needed when young. In tropical Queensland it grows between 20-1120 m altitude. It grows in drier rainforest. Mt Cootha Botanical Gardens. Hobart Botanical Gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed which must be planted fresh.

NOTES

There are about 485 species of Diospyros mostly in the tropics.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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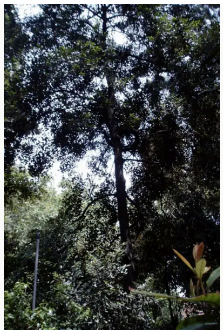

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