PLANT FACT SHEET

Celastrus orbiculatus Thunb.

GENUS *Celastrus* **FAMILY** Celastraceae

COMMON NAMES Oriental bittersweet

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

The young shoots are eaten in spring.

DESCRIPTION

A large vigourous climber which grows 7.5-12 m tall. The leaves are almost round and scalloped. The leaves have pointed tips. The leaves turn yellow in autumn. Male and female flowers are usually on separate plants. The flowers are small and green. The fruit are bead like and yellow. These split open to reveal scarlet coated seeds.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is frost hardy. It can tolerate drought. It will grow in most soils. In China it grows between 400-2,200 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 4-9. In Sichuan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The seeds are spread by birds. Plants can be grown from seeds or from root cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing.

NOTES

There are about 30 Celastrus species. It can be invasive.

REFERENCES

Altschul, S.V.R., 1973, Drugs and Foods from Little-known Plants. Notes in Harvard University Herbaria. Harvard Univ. Press. Massachusetts. no. 2546

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 231

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 351

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 196

Fl. jap. 97. 1784

Hwang, H., et al, 2013, A Study on the Flora of 15 Islands in the Western Sea of Jeollanamdo Province, Korea. Journal of Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Vol. 6, No. 2 281-310

Hwang, HS, et al, 2014, Distribution characteristics of plant in the Ungseokbong Mountain, Gyeongsangnam-do, Korea. Journal of Asia-Pacific Biodiversity. 7(2014) e164-e178

Joyce, D., 1998, The Garden Plant Selector. Ryland, Peters and Small. p 178

Kang, Y., et al, 2012, Wild food plants and wild edible fungi in two valleys on the Qinling Mountains (Shaanxi, central China) Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine; 9:26

Marinelli, J. (Ed), 2004, Plant. DK. p 448

Pemberton, R. W. & Lee, N. S., 1996, Wild Food Plants in South Korea: Market Presence, New Crops, and Exports to the United States. Economic Botany, Vol. 50, No. 1, pp. 57-70

Plants for a Future database, The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0NG, UK.
http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/b503b7ee-7d6e-4888-ac3c-a6a97fe328db