PLANT FACT SHEET

Solanum giganteum Jacq.

GENUS *Solanum* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES Red bitter-apple

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The fruit are used to curdle milk. The fruit are also eaten cooked in soups.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 3-5 m tall. The bark is pale grey to brown. The small branches are covered with thick white woolly hairs. There are also short straight prickles about 5 mm long. The leaves are oval and alternate. They are 23 cm long by 9 cm wide. They are dark green above and have dense white woolly hairs underneath. The leaf stalk is 2.5 cm long. The flowers are white to violet. They are 10 mm across. The occur in heads made up of many flowers and these are at the ends of branches. The fruit are almost round and fleshy. They are 10 mm across. They are bright red when ripe. These are in dense heads up to 20 cm across. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in woodland and often in deep shade in forest clearings. It grows from sea level to 1,650 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 10-12.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

A fruit weigh about 0.3 g.

NOTES

There are about 1400 Solanum species.

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