



PLANT FACT SHEET

Solanum torvum Sw.

GENUS *Solanum* FAMILY Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES Pea aubergine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit, Flowers, Vegetable, Root

CAUTION: This plant has been shown to contain poisonous compounds.

The green unripe fruit are added to curries in Malaysia. They are eaten in soup in Cambodia. They are also used for chutney. They are eaten as a vegetable. They are bitter. They are mixed with other vegetables.

They are pickled in Nepal. They are used in soup in China. They are also dried and preserved.

The young shoots are eaten raw or cooked. The fruit and flowers are used as a vegetable.

The roots are stewed.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub 1.5-3 m high. The leaves are oblong and 10-25 cm long. They can be entire or lobed. They often have prickles beneath the midrib. The young stem and underside of leaves are hairy. The flower is white and 2 cm across. The fruit are round berries, yellow when ripe. They are about 1 cm across. They grow in clusters. The seed are roughly circular and 2-3 mm across.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Papua New Guinea it grows from sea level to 2000 m altitude. In Cambodia it grows between 0 and 1200 m. In Nepal it grows to 1000 m altitude. It grows in open, moist places. It grows in wetlands. In Yunnan in China it grows between 200-1650 m altitude. Photo Brisbane shop. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The seeds need sunlight to germinate.

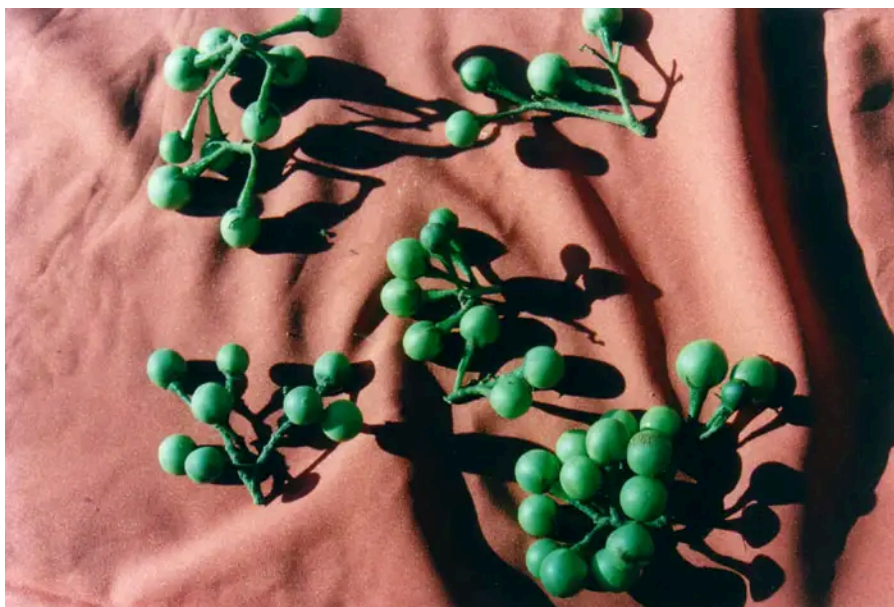
Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants start flowering 3-4 months after planting. Fruit are picked regularly starting 2 weeks after flowering.

NOTES

There are about 1400 *Solanum* species.

PICTURES



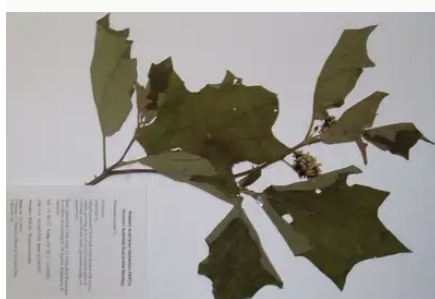
Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

- Ambasta, S. P. (Ed.), 2000, *The Useful Plants of India*. CSIR India. p 582
- Anderson, E. F., 1993, *Plants and people of the Golden Triangle*. Dioscorides Press. p 221
- Arinathan, V., et al, 2007, Wild edibles used by Palliyars of the western Ghats, Tamil Nadu. *Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge*. 6(1) pp 163-168
- Arora, R. K., 2014, Diversity in Underutilized Plant Species - An Asia-Pacific Perspective. *Bioversity International*. p 51
- Baa-Poku, F. & Asante, I. K., 2020, Use of Neglected and Underutilized Crop Species (NUCS) in some farming communities in the Upper Afram and Upper Dayi River Basins in Ghana. *International Journal of Technology and Management Research* 5 (2): 48-63
- Baishya, S. Kr., et al, 2013, Survey of Wild Edible Fruits of Dhubri District, Assam, India. *Plant Archives Vol 13* (1): 155-158
- Balkrishna, A., et al, 2022, Indigenous Uses of Plants among Forest-dependent Communities of Seijosa, Arunachal Pradesh. *International Journal of Economic Plants* 2022, 9(1):064-080
- Binu, S., 2010, Wild edible plants by the tribals in Pathanamthitta district, Kerala. *Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge*. 9(2): 309-312
- Borghain, D., 2017, Ethno-botanical study of wild edible fruits consumed by the people of Lakhimpur district of Assam, India. *Annals of Plant Sciences* 6.11 pp 1728-1735
- Borrell, O. W., 1989, *An Annotated Checklist of the Flora of Kairiru Island, New Guinea*. Marcellin College, Victoria Australia. p 138
- Burkill, H. M., 1985, *The useful plants of west tropical Africa*, Vol. 5. Kew.
- Burkill, I. H., 1966, *A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula*. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Vol 2 (I-Z) p 2083
- Cao, Y., et al, 2020, Ethnobotanical study on wild edible plants used by three trans-boundary ethnic groups in Jiangcheng County, Pu'er, Southwest China. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine* (2020) 16:66
- Chanda, M., et al, 2018, Assessment of Traditionally Used Wild Edible Plants and Its Impact on Health and Livelihood among the Ethnic Communities of Tripura. *Asian Journal of Agricultural and Horticultural Research*. 2(3): 1-13
- Chandrakumar, P., et al, 2015, Ethnobotanical studies of wild edible plants of Gond, Halba and Kaware tribes of Salekasa Taluka, Gondia District, Maharashtra State, India. *International Research Journal of Pharmacy* 6(8)
- Chatterjee, A.S. & Koma, Y.S., 1995, *List of Vegetables and Edible Plants in Cambodia*. JVC Trainers' training manual. Home Garden Series No. 1. JVC Cambodia p 3
- Chiang Mai University Vol. 4 , 1964, bio1080uu, Table 6 p 98

- Codjia, J. T. C., et al, 2003, Diversity and local valorisation of vegetal edible products in Benin. *Cahiers Agricultures* 12:1-12
- Cooper, W. and Cooper, W., 2004, *Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest*. Nokomis Editions, Victoria, Australia. p 523
- Dalziel, J. M., 1937, *The Useful plants of west tropical Africa*. Crown Agents for the Colonies London.
- Dangol, D. R. et al, 2017, Wild Edible Plants in Nepal. *Proceedings of 2nd National Workshop on CUAOGR*, 2017.
- Davis, S.D., Heywood, V.H., & Hamilton, A.C. (eds), 1994, *Centres of plant Diversity*. WWF. Vol 1 or 2. p 117
- Deb, D., et al, 2013, Wild Edible Plants and Their Utilization in Traditional Recipes of Tripura, Northeast India. *Advances in Biological Research* 7(5):203-211
- Delang, C. O., 2007, Ecological Succession of Usable Plants in an Eleven-Year Fallow Cycle in North Lao P.D.R., *Ethnobotany Research and Applications*. Vol. 5:331-350
- Diop, A. I., et al, 2021, Cultural importance of wild edible plants in three sympatric communities: Agni, Akyé and Gwa in the Department of Alépé (Southeast of Côte d'Ivoire). *Ethnobotany Research and Applications* 22:35. p 7
- Doni, T., & Gajurel P. R., 2020, Diversity of wild edible plants traditionally used by the Galo tribe of Indian Eastern Himalayan state of Arunachal Pradesh. *Plant Science Today*. 2020;7(4):523-533
- Ethnobotany of Karbis. Chapter 4 in p 101
- Facciola, S., 1998, *Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants*. Kampong Publications, p 238
- FAO, 2024, *Compendium of forgotten foods in Africa - A companion publication for Integrating Africa's forgotten foods for better nutrition*. Accra. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5044en> p 32
- Flora of Pakistan. www.eFloras.org
- Foo, J.T.S.(ed), 1996, *A Guide to Common Vegetables*. Singapore Science Foundation. p 138
- Food Composition Tables for use in East Asia FAO <http://www.fao.org/infoods/directory> No. 667
- Gangte, H. E., et al, 2013, Wild Edible Plants used by the Zou Tribe in Manipur, India. *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications*, Volume 3, Issue 5
- Gangwar, A. K. & Ramakrishnan, P. S., 1990, *Ethnobotanical Notes on Some Tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, Northeastern India*. *Economic Botany*, Vol. 44, No. 1 pp. 94-105
- Gbile, Z. O. and Adesina, S. K., 1988, Nigerian Solanum Species of Economic Importance. *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden*, Vol. 75, No. 3. p 864

Full reference list (115 more) at <https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/b82c6063-17b4-4df2-8a8e-b562a59a929a>

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/b82c6063-17b4-4df2-8a8e-b562a59a929a>