PLANT FACT SHEET

Searsia burchellii Sond. ex Engl.

GENUS *Searsia* **FAMILY** Anacardiaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are used in porridges. They are cleaned with the husks removed and milk added then allowed to stand for 4 hours to make a porridge like food. This is eaten in large amounts.
The fruit can be dried and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen bush. It grows 2.5-5 m tall. It keeps growing from year to year. There can be thorns on the stems. The bark is grey-brown. The branches are somewhat square. The leaves are crowded on spur like branches. The leaves have 3 leaflets. They are dark green and leathery. The flowers are small and star like. They are green to yellow. The fruit are flattened and 5 mm across. They are shiny green and turn red then brown as they ripen.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows in places with a marked dry season. It can tolerate frost. It suits hot arid places. In South Africa it grows from 60-2,000 m above sea level. It is in semi-desert. It can tolerate drought. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be cut back and will regrow.

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/baba9841-0d29-4896-a74c-1e4f8b04b034