PLANT FACT SHEET

Pentachondra pumila (J.R. Forst. & G. Forst.) R. Br.

GENUS *Pentachondra* **FAMILY** Ericaceae

COMMON NAMES Carpet frilly heath

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

A very small shrub. It forms mats. It grows 5-15 cm high and spreads 50-150 cm wide. Young growth can be hairy. The branches are long and wiry and often form roots when near the ground. The small branches are rough. The leaves are 0.3-0.6 cm long by 0.2 cm wide. The are oblong and crowded. They are stiff and curved inwards and have a sharp tip. The flowers are like tubes and 0.4 cm long. They are white with spreading lobes. The fruit are about 0.8 cm across. They are almost round and bright red.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows above the tree line in subalpine regions. It needs well drained acidic soils. It can tolerate low temperatures and snow. It suits hardiness zones 8-9. Tasmania Herbarium.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from cuttings of soft wood. It can also be grown from layered stems.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is slow growing. The fruit take about a year to ripen.

NOTES

There are 3-5 Pentachondra species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 770

Brickell, C. (Ed.), 1999, The Royal Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants. Convent Garden Books. p 769

Codd, P., Payne, B. & Woolcock, C., 1998, The Plant Life of Kosciusko. Kangaroo Press. p 28

Cronin, L., 1989, The Concise Australian Flora. Reed. p 31

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 1009

Curtis, W.M., 1963, The Students Flora of Tasmania Vol 2 p 429

Elliot, W.R., & Jones, D.L., 1997, Encyclopedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation. Vol 7. Lothian. p 196

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 514

Kirkpatrick, J., 1997, Alpine Tasmania, An Illustrated guide to the flora and vegetation. Oxford, p 53

Low, T., 1991, Wild Food Plants of Australia. Australian Nature FieldGuide, Angus & Robertson. p 131

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

Tasmanian Herbarium Vascular Plants list p 27

Whiting, J. et al, 2004, Tasmania's Natural Flora. Tasmania's Natural Flora Editorial Committee PO Box 194, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia 7315 p 142

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/bb7d7b3b-9570-43c8-b437-feb0dfdadabc