PLANT FACT SHEET

Elaeagnus umbellata Thunberg

GENUS *Elaeagnus* **FAMILY** Elaeagnaceae

COMMON NAMES Autumn olive

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Nuts

The ripe fruit can be eaten raw. They are used like red currants. They can also be used for jams, sauces, preserves and pies.
They can be dried like raisins.
The fruit are pickled and used in curries.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 3-9 m high and 9 m wide. The new shoots are golden brown and thorny. The leaves are soft green and have wavy edges. They are silvery underneath. The flowers are yellow-white and fragrant. The fruit are small orange to red berries. One shrub can produce 54,000 seeds in a year.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It can grow on dry and exposed hillsides. In the Himalayas it grows up to 3,500 m above sea level. It can grow in acid or alkaline soils with pH of 4-8. It is non-leguminous but nitrogen-fixing. It suits hardiness zones 7-9. Arboretum Tasmania. In Sichuan. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can re-sprout after burned or slashed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In China plants flower in April to May and fruit July to August.

NOTES

There are 45 Elaeagnus species. It can be invasive.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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