PLANT FACT SHEET

Buddleja officinalis Maxim.

GENUS *Buddleja* **FAMILY** Scrophulariaceae

COMMON NAMES Mi meng hua

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers - colouring

CAUTION: Many Loganiaceae are very poisonous.
The flowers are collected and used for dying rice.

DESCRIPTION

An upright semi-evergreen shrub. It grows 1-4 m tall. There is a fine covering over the plant parts. The small branches are slightly 4 angled. The leaf stalk is 0.2-3 cm long. The leaf blade is oval and 4-19 cm long by 2-8 cm wide. There are 8-14 side veins on each side of the midrib. The flowering arrangement is at the end of the plant. It is 5-15 cm long by 2-10 cm wide. The flowers are pink or pale purple with an orange throat. The fruit is a capsule. It is 4-8 mm long by 2-3 mm wide. The seeds are oval and 1-1.2 mm long by 0.3-0.5 mm wide. They have wings all around.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate to subtropical plant. It grows on the edge of forests and on riverbanks between 200-2800 m altitude in China. It will grow in most soils. It is resistant to drought and frost. It suits hardiness zones 8-10. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown by hardwood cuttings.

NOTES

It is a source of dye for food medicine and perfume. There are about 90-100 Buddleja species. They are in the tropics and subtropics. Also put in the family Buddlejaceae.

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