PLANT FACT SHEET

Prunus americana Marshall

GENUS *Prunus* **FAMILY** Rosaceae

COMMON NAMES American Red Plum

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The ripe fruit are usually made into jams and jellies. They can also be eaten fresh or dried. They can be stewed or made into sauces. They can be dried and stored.
The seed kernels can be eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 8 m high and spreads 3.5 m wide. The leaves are oval and usually widest slightly below the middle. They are 6-10 cm long and 3-4.5 cm wide. They are fully rounded at the base. There are sharp teeth along the edge. The leaves are dull green with slightly sunken veins above. They are paler and with some hairs near the veins underneath. The flowers are white and about 25 mm across. They are on slender greenish-brown stalks. They occur in small flat topped clusters. The fruit are 20-25 mm long. They are orange or red and the surface is slightly powdery. The flesh can be sweet or sour. There are several named cultivated varieties.

HABITAT

Temperate. It grows in deciduous woodlands. It is often along the banks of rivers and lakes. It suits hardiness zones 3-9.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can spread by root sprouts. It can also be grown by seeds or cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 200 Prunus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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