PLANT FACT SHEET

Eugenia involucrata DC.

GENUS *Eugenia* **FAMILY** Myrtaceae

COMMON NAMES Cherry of the Rio Grande, Savanna cherry, Savannah Pitanga

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw.
The fruit are used for jellies, ice cream and liqueurs. They are also used for jam.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 5-8 m high. It grows 10-15 m high in forest. The crown is oval. The trunk is 30-40 cm across. The bark is thin and peels off. The leaves are simple and opposite. They have short leaf stalks. They are 5-9 cm long by 2-3 cm wide. The flowers occur singly in the axils of leaves. They have long stalks. The fruit are narrowly oval and bright red. They are shiny and have a green stalk. The pulp is sweet and juicy and with 1 or 2 large seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Brazil if grows in semi-deciduous broadleaf forest. In Argentina it grows between sea level and 1,200 m above sea level. It grows naturally in the drier savannah and scrub land areas of Brazil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. The ripe fruit are harvested and the seeds removed. The seeds are dried in the shade. Seed can only be stored for 2 weeks. The fresh seed are planted and germinate in 30-40 days.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow slowly.

NOTES

There are about 550 Eugenia species. They are mostly in tropical and subtropical South America.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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