PLANT FACT SHEET

Calligonum polygonoides L.

GENUS *Calligonum* **FAMILY** Polygonaceae

COMMON NAMES Red lantern

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Flowers, Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw.
The flowers and flower buds are dried and are made into bread.
The leaves are eaten as a green vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 0.2-1 m high. It has jointed segments. It has long roots. The leaves are very narrow and grow out of the joints. The leaves fall and the green stems convert sunlight. The flowers are delicate and have 5 white sepals. The stamen are yellowish-pink. The fruit are red and showy. They are bristly.

HABITAT

It grows in Mediterranean climate plants. It grows on sand dunes and undulating sand plains. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

The flowers fall and are swept up.

NOTES

There are about 80 Calligonum species. Chemical composition (after Hooper): Albumenoids = 12.03% (dry). Ash = 11.10% (dry). Nitrogen = 1.92% (dry). Phosphoric acid = .38% (dry). Silicates = .38% (dry).

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