PLANT FACT SHEET

Parthenocissus quinquefolia (L.) Planch.

GENUS *Parthenocissus* **FAMILY** Vitaceae

COMMON NAMES Virginia Creeper

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Root, Stem

The fruit is eaten raw.
The stems are peeled then boiled.
The root is used cooked.

DESCRIPTION

A climber. It can be 30 m long. The leaves are made up of 3 or 5 leaflets. These have coarse teeth around the edge. The leaves are 12 cm long. The leaves turn bright red before falling off. The tendrils have suction cups.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows in woods and on rocky banks. During the dormant stage plants can survive heavy frosts. It suits hardiness zones 3-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. Stored seed needs cold treatment by being stored at 5°C for 6 weeks. Cuttings of half ripe wood can be used. They should be 7-10 cm long. They can also be grown from basal hardwood cuttings and by layering. The plants make a good ground cover when spaced about 3 m apart. It is a vigorous climber and ground cover plant.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing. Fruit is only produced after a long hot summer.

NOTES

There are about 10 Parthenocissus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Beckstrom-Sternberg, Stephen M., and James A. Duke. "The Foodplant Database." http://probe.nalusda.gov:8300/cgi-bin/browse/foodplantdb. (ACEDB version 4.0 - data version July 1994)

Brickell, C. (Ed.), 1999, The Royal Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants. Convent Garden Books. p 754

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 990

A. L. P. P. de Candolle & A. C. de Candolle, Monogr. phan. 5:448. 1887

Etkin, N.L. (Ed.), 1994, Eating on the Wild Side, Univ. of Arizona. p 73

Hibbert, M., 2002, The Aussie Plant Finder 2002, Florilegium. p 219

Joyce, D., 1998, The Garden Plant Selector. Ryland, Peters and Small. p 185

Kachenchart, B., et al, 2008, Phenology of Edible Plants at Sakaerat Forest. In Proceedings of the FORTROP II: Tropical Forestry Change in a Changing World. Bangkok, Thailand.

Kermath, B. M., et al, 2014, Food Plants in the Americas: A survey of the domesticated, cultivated and wild plants used for Human food in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. On line draft. p 609

Kremer, B.P., 1995, Shrubs in the Wild and in Gardens. Barrons. p 192 (Listed as mildly poisonous)

Lord, E.E., & Willis, J.H., 1999, Shrubs and Trees for Australian gardens. Lothian. p 334

Moerman, D. F., 2010, Native American Ethnobotany. Timber Press. p 378

Plants for a Future database, The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0NG, UK. http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/

Ryan, S., 2008, Dicksonia. Rare Plants Manual. Hyland House. p 78

Toupal, R. S. & Hollenback, K., 2009, An Ethnobotany of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore: Plant Uses of the Ojibwa People. Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology. University of Arizona

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/d705fccd-0d96-46fe-93f5-030339505d96