PLANT FACT SHEET

Vaccinium ashei J. M. Reade

GENUS *Vaccinium* **FAMILY** Ericaceae

COMMON NAMES Rabbiteye Blueberry, Mirtilo, Mirtilo-rabbiteye

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw. They can also be cooked, dried or used in muffins, jams, pies, pancakes and other foods. The can be used for jellies and juices.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 0.9-4.5 m tall and spreads 2 m wide. It mostly loses its leaves but can keep most leaves in mild climates. The leaves are broad and have teeth along the edge. The leaves are papery and 4-8 cm long. The flowers develop while the shrub is almost leafless. The flowers are white or light red. The fruit is purple-black and 12 mm wide. The fruit is edible.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. The chilling requirement is 400-500 chilling hours per winter with temperatures below 7°C. They need an acid soil with pH of 4.5-5.5. They need good drainage and a sandy soil. They are heat and drought resistant. It suits hardiness zones 8-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from woody or semi-woody cuttings. Normally a mixture of varieties are planted to encourage cross pollination as self pollination is not always efficient.

NOTES

It is a hexaploid plant.

REFERENCES

Cull, B.W., 1995, Fruit Growing in Warm Climates. Reed. p 150

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 1453

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 96

Flowerdew, B., 2000, Complete Fruit Book. Kyle Cathie Ltd., London. p 66

Glowinski, L., 1999, The Complete Book of Fruit Growing in Australia. Lothian. p 158

Hibbert, M., 2002, The Aussie Plant Finder 2002, Florilegium. p 304

INFOODS:FAO/INFOODS Databases

Jackes, D. A., 2007, Edible Forest Gardens

John, L., & Stevenson, V., 1979, The Complete Book of Fruit. Angus & Robertson p 84

Lazarides, M. & Hince, B., 1993, Handbook of Economic Plants of Australia, CSIRO. p 244

Lorenzi, H., Bacher, L., Lacerda, M. & Sartori, S., 2006, Brazilian Fruits & Cultivated Exotics. Sao Paulo, Instituto Plantarum de Estuados da Flora Ltda. p 408

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

TodaFruta.com.br

Torreya 31:71. 1931

Trehane, J., 2004, Blueberries, Cranberries and Other Vacciniums. Timber Press. p 168

van Wyk, B., 2005, Food Plants of the World. An illustrated guide. Timber press. p 373

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/d90db2cb-3839-42a9-b3ad-ffa3d947436c