PLANT FACT SHEET

Parthenocissus himalayana (Royle) Planch.

GENUS *Parthenocissus* **FAMILY** Vitaceae

COMMON NAMES Charchare

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit is eaten raw or cooked.

DESCRIPTION

A climber to 18 m long. The plant climbs by tendrils which attach to objects. The fruit is about 6 mm across and is carried in small bunches like grapes.

HABITAT

It occurs naturally climbing over rocks between 1200-3300 metres altitude in Western China. It requires a well drained moist soil. It needs a fertile soil and can grow in sunlight of light shade. Young plants are damaged by frosts. Fruiting occurs after a long hot summer.

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.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Sikkim fruit are available in September.

NOTES

There are about 10 Parthenocissus species.

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