PLANT FACT SHEET

Lycium europaeum L.

GENUS *Lycium* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES European tea-tree, Box thorn

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Berries, Fruit, Shoots, Leaves, Vegetable

The berries are eaten.
The young shoots are eaten as a vegetable. They are boiled and seasoned with oil, lemon and pepper. They are also used in stews.

DESCRIPTION

A thorny shrub. It grows 1-4 m tall. It loses its leaves during the year. The branches are rigid and very spiny. The spines are stout. The leaves are narrowly oval and broadest above the middle. They are 20-50 mm long. The flowers are pink or white. They are narrow and funnel-shaped. They are 11-13 mm long and occur singly or in groups or 2-3. The fruit is a reddish berry.

HABITAT

It is a Mediterranean climate plant. It grows in hedges and along roadside. It grows between 1-2,100 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Leaves are collected during the rainy season.

NOTES

There are about 100 Lycium species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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