PLANT FACT SHEET

Ilex theezans Mart. ex Reissek

GENUS *Ilex* **FAMILY** Aquifoliaceae

COMMON NAMES Tea holly

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - tea

The leaves are mixed with true mate to add a bitter flavour.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 12-18 m high. It has a round crown. The trunk is smooth and 30-50 cm across. The leaves are 5-10 cm long by 2-5 cm wide. The flowers are in the axils of the leaves. The fruit is round and red. It is 4-8 mm across. There are 2-6 small seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in high latitude regions in Brazil. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 1,200 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. The seeds are removed by crushing the fruit is running water. The seeds have a hard seed coat and need to be stored in a cool, moist places for an extended period. The seeds are then planted and germinate in 30-50 days.

REFERENCES

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/ebbc808a-7408-4b7b-839e-1a5812268e75