PLANT FACT SHEET

Arbutus menziesii Pursh.

GENUS *Arbutus* **FAMILY** Ericaceae

COMMON NAMES Madrona, Madrone, Pacific madrone

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit can be eaten in small quantities. They can be eaten raw or boiled or steamed. After boiling they can be dried and stored for later use. They then need to be soaked in warm water before eating.
Caution: The fruit can be high in tannin.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It can grow to 20-30 m high. The trunk is 60-100 cm across. It has smooth reddish-brown bark. This peels off in papery flakes. The freshly exposed bark is green. The leaves are oval and 7-12 cm long. The leaves have smooth edges and are glossy green. They are whitish underneath. The male and female flowers are yellow and bell shaped and born on separate trees. The flowers occur in large clusters. They are white. They have a strong honey odour. The fruit are small and orange-red. They are 1 cm across. They have a grainy surface and many seeds.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is native to North America. It needs acid soil.. It mostly grows in humid areas. It suits hardiness zones 7-9. It needs a dry summer. Tasmanian Arboretum.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

It can live for 200 years.

NOTES

There are 14 Arbutus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/ec4884e0-007d-4e71-88a7-e0f1445f857c