PLANT FACT SHEET

Crataegus pontica C. Koch

GENUS *Crataegus* **FAMILY** Rosaceae

COMMON NAMES Ponti hawthorn

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The mature fruit are eaten fresh.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 6-10 m tall. The crown is wide and half round. Young shoots have a covering but no spines. The older branches are dark grey. The leaf stalks are short. The leaves are bluish-green and have 5-7 lobes. They have a wedge shaped base. They are 5-7 cm long by 4-6 cm wide. Young leaves are hairy. The flowers are in compact groups or 6-14 flowers. The fruit are large. They can be 3 cm across. They are round of pear shaped. They are yellowish-green when young and become more orange. They fruit are juicy and acid sweet. There are 2-4 seeds in each fruit.

Probably now Crataegus azarolus var. pontica (K. Koch) K.I. Chr.

HABITAT

Temperate. In Kazakhstan it grows on rocky and gravelly slopes. It is drought resistant. It grows up to 1,500 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. The seed need cold treatment. Plants can also be grafted.

Harvesting and Seed Production

A fruit can be 3 cm across and weigh 1.6-4.8 g. Fruit yield varies annually due to drought but is regular with irrigation. A tree can yield 12-20 kg per year with a maximum yield of 80 kg.

NOTES

There are 200 or more Crataegus species.

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