PLANT FACT SHEET

Eugenia reinwardtiana (Blume) DC

GENUS *Eugenia* **FAMILY** Myrtaceae

COMMON NAMES Sweet cherry, Beach cherry, Cedar Bay Cherry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The flesh of the ripe fruit is eaten. It can be used for jams and sauces.

DESCRIPTION

A tree up to 3-6 m tall. It spreads 0.5-2 m across. The bark is smooth and flaky. It is pale brown. The young shoots have short hairs pressed against the stem. The leaves are simple and 2-9 cm long by 1-4.5 cm across. They are smooth and have oil dots along them. The leaf stalks is short (0.2-0.4 cm long). The leaves are fairly thick with a blunt tip. The leaves are shiny on the upper surface. Young leaves are bronze red. The flowers are mostly 1-3 together. The flowers are white and about 1.2 cm across. Both male and female parts occur on the one flower. The fruit occur either singly or in bunches in the angles of leaves. The fruit are 1.5-2.1 cm long by 1.3-2.3 cm wide. When ripe the fruit are red. There is one seed inside. The seed is 0.7-1.2 cm long. The flesh is edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is native to NE Australia. It is a tropical rainforest species. Often it occurs in coastal scrub. They can tolerate salt laden winds. They require a well drained soil. Trees will grow in full sunlight or heavy shade. They can tolerate very slight frosts. In the Cairns Botanical Gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

They can be grown from seed. They can also be grown from cuttings but the cuttings are slow to form roots.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees are very slow growing but commence flowering while still small. They can fruit after 2 years. Trees flower and fruit throughout the year. Most commonly flowering is June to February with fruit maturing August to March.

NOTES

There are about 550 Eugenia species. They are mostly in tropical and subtropical South America.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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