PLANT FACT SHEET

Eugenia cerasiflora Miq.

GENUS *Eugenia* **FAMILY** Myrtaceae

COMMON NAMES Cherry-of-the-Rio-Grande

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten fresh.
They are also used in jams and jellies.
The fruit can be frozen or dried and stored.
Caution: The seeds should not be eaten as they cause diarrhoea.

DESCRIPTION

A small evergreen tree. It often has many branches. It grows to 6-8 m tall. With increasing age the bark peels off leaving a smooth trunk. It has dark green glossy waxy leaves. The leaves are 5-8 cm long. They are somewhat folded down the centre. Flowers are white and showy. Fruit are 2-3 cm long and dark red to purple.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. They grow on a variety of soils but prefer a slightly acid soils. Trees cannot tolerate salt spray. They can tolerate frosts once mature. They can tolerate sun or shade. They need plenty of water at flowering and fruiting. Plants can tolerate drought. The soils need to be well drained.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Trees are normally grown from seed. Seedlings take 4-5 years to produce. They can be grafted. Cross pollination improves the fruit set.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Seedling trees take 4-5 years before fruiting. The fruit are ready 4-8 weeks after flowering.

NOTES

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

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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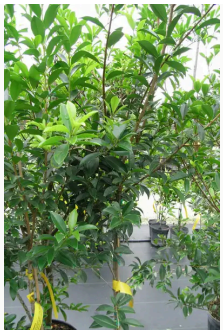

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