PLANT FACT SHEET

Celastrus scandens Linn.

GENUS *Celastrus* **FAMILY** Celastraceae

COMMON NAMES American bittersweet, Climbing bittersweet

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Bark, Shoots

CAUTION: The fruit and seed are toxic.
The twigs and inner bark are eaten. The poison is removed by boiling.

DESCRIPTION

A woody vine. It climbs 6 m high. The leaves are 10 cm long. They have teeth along the edge. The leaves are oblong and taper to a point. Male and female plants are separate. The flowers are greenish. The fruit are yellow. They are pea sized and contain scarlet seeds. It only fruits in a continental climate.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is frost hardy. It suits hardiness zones 3-9.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seed or layering. It can be grown by root cuttings. It is grown on trees and fences.

NOTES

There are about 30 Celastrus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Beckstrom-Sternberg, Stephen M., and James A. Duke. "The Foodplant Database." http://probe.nalusda.gov:8300/cgi-bin/browse/foodplantdb. (ACEDB version 4.0 - data version July 1994)

Brickell, C. (Ed.), 1999, The Royal Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants. Convent Garden Books. p 242

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 351

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 196

Etkin, N.L. (Ed.), 1994, Eating on the Wild Side, Univ. of Arizona. p 73

Hedrick, U.P., 1919, (Ed.), Sturtevant's edible plants of the world. p 177

Joyce, D., 1998, The Garden Plant Selector. Ryland, Peters and Small. p 177

Kermath, B. M., et al, 2014, Food Plants in the Americas: A survey of the domesticated, cultivated and wild plants used for Human food in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. On line draft. p 204

Lord, E.E., & Willis, J.H., 1999, Shrubs and Trees for Australian gardens. Lothian. p 329

MacKinnon, A., et al, 2009, Edible & Medicinal Plants of Canada. Lone Pine. p 134

Sp. pl. 1:196. 1753 (type species)

Toupal, R. S. & Hollenback, K., 2009, An Ethnobotany of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore: Plant Uses of the Ojibwa People. Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology. University of Arizona

USDA plants

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/f46457f2-e2fb-4720-9c43-6d0e8e9077e6