PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Oxera splendida (F. Muell.) Gateble & Barrabe

GENUS *Oxera* **FAMILY** Lamiaceae

COMMON NAMES October glory, Potato Vine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

It is an evergreen woody climbing vine. It twines around other plants. It can be 15 cm thick. It climbs to a height of 15 m. The stem is vigorous. The leaves are light green and glossy. They are oval or narrowly heart shaped. They are 10-40 cm long and 6-8 cm wide. The leaf stalks are 2-5 cm long. The leaves are fairly thin textured with glands at the base of the leaf blade. The flowers are white. They have 4 lobes and are cup shaped. They are 5 cm across. The occur in clusters at the ends of branches. The flowers have a scent. The fruit are cream coloured oval berries. They are 9 cm long by 6 cm across. They are edible. The white flesh of the fruit turns yellow when squashed. There is one seed inside. The seed is 4.5 cm long by 3.5 cm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It can grow in the subtropics. It does best in rich moist soils. The soils need to be well drained. It needs a protected partly shaded position. It is damaged by drought and frost. It grows naturally in the lowland and upland rainforest. In tropical Queensland it grows from sea level to 1000 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or by cuttings. Seed should be sown fresh. They germinate readily.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruit are produced August to April in Australia.

PICTURES

Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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