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.

Solanum mauritianum Scop.

GENUS *Solanum* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES Wild tobacco tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

CAUTION: The fruit are poisonous.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 4 m tall. It has a woolly covering. The leaves are alternate. There are 2 leaf like structures near the base of the leaf. These are 0.5-2 cm long. The leaves are oval to sword shaped and 10-30 cm long by 4.5-14 cm wide. They taper to the tip. There are many flowers together at the tip of the branches or in the axils of leaves. The fruit is a round berry. It is dull yellow and 10-15 mm wide. It is hairy at first. The seeds are 1.5-2 mm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is native to Argentina. It grows on waste ground. In East Africa it grows between 1,500-2,800 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 10-12.

NOTES

There are about 1400 Solanum species.

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