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Physalis pruinosa - L.

Common Name	Strawberry Tomato
Family	Solanaceae
Synonyms	<i>P. pubescens</i> grisea. Waterfall. = <i>P. pubescens</i> (Cornucopia)
Known Hazards	All parts of the plant, except the fruit, are poisonous[19, 65].
Habitats	Dry open often sandy soils, old fields and wasteland[43].
Range	Eastern N. America - Wisconsin, New York and south to Florida.
Edibility Rating	
Medicinal Rating	
Care	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>



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Summary

Physical Characteristics



Physalis pruinosa is a ANNUAL growing to 0.6 m (2ft). It is hardy to zone (UK) 5 and is not frost tender. It is in flower from Jul to September. The flowers are hermaphrodite (have both male and female organs) and are pollinated by Insects.

USDA hardiness zone : 4-8

Suitable for: light (sandy), medium (loamy) and heavy (clay) soils and prefers well-drained soil. Suitable pH: acid, neutral and basic (alkaline) soils. It can grow in semi-shade (light woodland) or no shade. It prefers dry or moist soil.

Habitats

Cultivated Beds;

Edible Uses

Edible Parts: [Fruit](#).
Edible Uses:

Fruit - raw or cooked in pies, preserves etc[105]. A delicious bitter sweet flavour. The plant conveniently wraps up each fruit in its own 'paper bag' (botanically, the calyx) to protect it from pests and the elements. This calyx is toxic and should not be eaten.

Medicinal Uses

Plants For A Future can not take any responsibility for any adverse effects from the use of plants. Always seek advice from a professional before using a plant medicinally.

None known

Other Uses

None known



Cultivation details

Succeeds in any well-drained soil in full sun or light shade[200]. The young growth in spring can be damaged by late frosts. Occasionally cultivated for its edible fruit, there are some named varieties. Similar to *P. peruviana*[200].

Propagation

Seed - sow March/April in a greenhouse only just covering the seed. Germination usually takes place quickly and freely. Prick out the seedlings into individual pots of fairly rich soil when they are large enough to handle and plant them out after the last expected frosts. Consider giving them some protection such as a cloche until they are growing away well. Diurnal temperature fluctuations assist germination[170].

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Expert comment

Author

L.

Botanical References

43170200

Links / References

[43]**Fernald, M. L.** Gray's Manual of Botany.

A bit dated but good and concise flora of the eastern part of N. America.

[105]**Tanaka, T.** Tanaka's Cyclopaedia of Edible Plants of the World.

The most comprehensive guide to edible plants I've come across. Only the briefest entry for each species, though, and some of the entries are more than a little dubious. Not for the casual reader.

[170]**Dremann, C. G.** Ground Cherries, Husk Tomatoes and Tomatilloes.

Only a small booklet but it covers the various species in some depth.

[200]**Huxley, A.** The New RHS Dictionary of Gardening. 1992.

Excellent and very comprehensive, though it contains a number of silly mistakes. Readable yet also very detailed.

Readers comment

daniel H.

Daniel Halsey is a Temperate Climate Polyculture Designer for the Permaculture Research Institute, Cold Climate in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Usa

Aug 9 2010
12:00AM

This plant is native to Minnesota and is easily cultivated. It is used as a trap crop for Colorado potato Beetle, but with minor management produced bountiful clusters of fruits and is a perennial spreading by rhizomes. It is easily transplanted and makes a great ground cover in orchards. Its flavor is described as a sweet pineapple tomato mix. Daniel Halsey Southwoodsforestgardens.blogspot.com pricolddclimate.org
[Southwoods Forest Gardens](#)



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Subject : *Physalis pruinosa*

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