



INDIGENOUS GARDEN

Solanum centrale
(Native Tomato)

Indigenous Names

Kutjera, Kampurarpa, Akatjurra

Indigenous use

Traditionally the Bush Tomato is very important to the Aboriginal people. It was a staple at certain times of the year and could also be ground into a paste and rolled into large balls which were then stored for use in times when food was scarce.

Description

Initially distinctively raisin or caramel in flavour, bush tomato has a strong spicy aftertaste. Rich in antioxidants and minerals, including selenium, bush tomato is considered one of the most important of all the Central Australian plant foods. Native tomato is a small desert plant approximately 30cm in height, with grey to bronze leaves and attractive mauve/blue flowers.



Habitat

Bush tomatoes are most commonly found in desert regions of Central Australia. There are 94 species of bush tomato native to Australia. They thrive in sandy soils, plants are small shrubs whose growth is encouraged by fire and disturbance