

## AMERICAN NIGHTSHADE aka SOLANUM AMERICANUM



**IDENTIFICATION:** *This fruit appears as Shiny black berries, but young leaves and shoots are maroon under leaf. The fruit has seeds. Fruits are green at first but turn black, shiny and juicy when mature. Some people think that some species are poisonous.*

**TIME OF YEAR:** The plant flowers from June until late autumn in northern climates. Summer in northern climates, year round in warmer areas.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Will tolerated sand and dry conditions but prefers well cultivated and rich soil. If it makes a tomato happy it will make a black nightshade happy.

**METHOD OF PREPARATION:** Ripe berries raw or cooked, young leaves, stem tops boiled twice, 15 minutes each time. Bruised leaves used externally to ease pain and reduce inflammation, also apply to burns and ulcers. Their juice has been used for ringworm, gout and earaches. The plant can be propagated by stem cuttings. Boil the leaves twice. Toxicity varies plant to plant and season to season. They cite the potato which produces toxic green skin.