

# Strawberry Tree

*Arbutus unedo*



Also known as the “autumn strawberry”, it belongs to the family Ericaceae and is distributed throughout the Mediterranean Basin, almost all of the Iberian Peninsula and the southwestern and northwestern of Ireland.

It is an evergreen shrub that can reach a height of about 20 m.

More information at: [https://www.amu.bio/\\_strawberry\\_tree](https://www.amu.bio/_strawberry_tree)

## Cultivation

The strawberry tree has a great resistance to dryness of the soil and the air, and high summer temperatures.

It is a rustic shrub that grows well in most soils, even in poor, deteriorated and saline soils.

It requires plenty of natural light and gets best results when grown in full sun all year.

The harvest of its fruit starts in October and extends into early winter.

## History

It is a native plant of the Mediterranean region and Western Europe.

In Portugal, it can be found all over the country, but the highest concentration occurs in the Caldeirão and Monchique mountains.

**Utilization**

It's fruit is formed at the end of autumn, ripening until autumn of the following year.

The strawberry tree has a much appreciated fruit, being used in the production of *aguardente*, a typical regional product from Algarve.

It is also used for the production of honey, and its leaves and barks contain tannins that are used for tanning hides.

This plant is also used for medicinal purposes due its antiseptics effects, and as an ornamental plant for its white or slightly pink flowers.