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*Solanum muricatum*

[Synonyms : *Solanum hebeophorum*, *Solanum muricatum* var. *praecedens*, *Solanum muricatum* var. *protogenum*, *Solanum scabrum*, *Solanum variegatum*, *Solanum wallisii*]

**PEPINO** (Czech, English) is a shrub or vine. Possibly native to the Andes in Chile and to Peru it has small violet or violet-marked white flowers.

It is also known as *Birnenmelone* (German), *Kachuma* (German), Mellowfruit, Melon pear, Melon shrub, Pear mellon, Pepino dulce (English, German), Pepino melon, and Tree melon.

*Muricatum* means ‘sharp-spined or with roughened surface with hard points’.

Pepino is believed to have been introduced to Florida in the southern United States at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

This insipid tasting melon-like purple-streaked golden fruit can be an ingredient in fruit salads.