PLANT FACT SHEET

Talinum caffrum (Thunb.) Eckl. et Zeyh.

GENUS *Talinum* **FAMILY** Talinaceae

COMMON NAMES Porcupine root

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Stems, Vegetable

The leaves are picked while freshly growing and boiled and eaten with relish and salt. They are also eaten raw as a salad.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows about 45 cm tall. It has a deeply buried tuber with annual stems. The leaves are 6 cm long and somewhat fleshy. The flowers are in groups of 1-3 in the axils of leaves. The petals are rich yellow. They are 2 cm long. The seeds are shiny and black. They are in a round capsule.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in dry rocky soil. It grows between sea level and 2,750 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places. It is drought resistant because of its tuber.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

The leaves are preserved by drying. A tuber can be 0.5 kg.

NOTES

There are about 50 Talinum species. They grow in warm places.
Also put in the family Portulacaceae.

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