PLANT FACT SHEET

Cladium mariscus subsp. jamaicense (L.) Pohl, (Crantz) kuk

GENUS *Cladium* **FAMILY** Cyperaceae

COMMON NAMES Saw grass

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Shoots

The young shoots are eaten as an emergency food.

DESCRIPTION

A sedge. These grow in clumps and have grass like leaves and solid stalks. They have rough edges. It grows 1-3 m tall. The stalks are 3 sided. The leaves on the stems are 60-120 cm long by 6-20 mm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Argentina it grows below 100 m above sea level. It grows in the swampy edges of streams. In Guatemala it grows up to 1,500 m above sea level. It grows in swamps and marshes in salt or fresh water.

NOTES

There are 3 Cladium species. There are alkaloids in the nutlets.

REFERENCES

Inst. rei herb. 1:362. 1766

Kermath, B. M., et al, 2014, Food Plants in the Americas: A survey of the domesticated, cultivated and wild plants used for Human food in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. On line draft. p 238 (As Cladium jamaicense)

Morton, J., 1961, Plants for survival in South Florida. Florida State Horticultural Society. p 319 (As Mariscus jamaicensis)

Plants of Haiti Smithsonian Institute http://botany.si.edu/antilles/West Indies (As Cladium jamaicense)

Smith, N., Mori, S.A., et al, 2004, Flowering Plants of the Neotropics. Princeton. p 436

Simpson, D. A. & Inglis, C. A., 2001, Cyperaceae of Economic, Ethnobotanical and Horticultural Importance: A checklist. Kew Bulletin Vol. 56, No. 2 (2001), pp. 257-360

Standley, P. & Steyermark, J., 1958, Flora of Guatemala. Fieldiana: Botany, Volume 24 part 1 p 112 (As Cladium jamaicense)

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/04d16ee2-70ed-44be-9ecb-1b2a725cc140