PLANT FACT SHEET

Xanthosoma brasiliense (Deaf.) Engl.

GENUS *Xanthosoma* **FAMILY** Araceae

COMMON NAMES Tannia spinach

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable

The leaves, stems and upper portion of the leaf stalks are used as potherbs.

DESCRIPTION

A large herb. It grows about 1 m tall. It keeps growing from year to year. The tubers are tiny but not acrid. The plant is usually grown for its edible leaves. The leaf stalks are 60 cm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It thrives in hot wet conditions. It will not grow well in sandy soils or soils low in organic matter. It will grow in soils with a pH between 5.0 - 8.0. It can tolerate shade and be intercropped with bananas or coconut.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown as a leaf vegetable. It take a about 0.5 share metres of space or 20,000 plants per hectare. It is usually grown from corms or stem cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It produces nutritious green leaves year round and will continue to produce for up to 2 years.

NOTES

There are 57 Xanthosoma species.

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