PLANT FACT SHEET

Amomum maximum Roxb.

GENUS *Amomum* **FAMILY** Zingiberaceae

COMMON NAMES Great winged amomum, Java cardamom

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit, Fruit - spice, Vegetable, Flowers, Tuber/Rhizome, Roots, Seeds

The fresh fruit are eaten raw. They are also used as a spice. They are used in chutney.
They are also cooked or candied.
The young shoots and young flowers are cooked and eaten as a vegetable. They are cooked with rice.
The rhizomes are eaten in chutney.

DESCRIPTION

A ginger family herb. The plant grows 2-3 m tall. It has a thick underground stem or rhizome. The leaf stalk can either not exist or be up to 8 cm long. The leaf blade is oblong and 30-90 cm long by 10-20 cm wide. It is bright green on top. Underneath is has a white covering. The flower spikes are almost round and 5 cm across. The bracts are brownish and 2-2.5 cm long. They are hairy but fall off. The flower is pale with purple spots. The fruit is a capsule which is purple-green and oval. It is 2.5-3 cm long by 1.8-2.4 cm across. It has 9 wings and fine white hairs. The seeds are oval and 5 mm long by 3 mm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in shady forests and on hill slopes between 600-800 m altitude in S. China. It is usually in forests on moist humus rich soils. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown using tips of the rhizomes that have roots. It can also be grown from seeds.

NOTES

There are about 150 Amomum species. They are mostly tropical. It is used in medicine.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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(As Amalocalyx yunnanensis)

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