PLANT FACT SHEET

Cyperus papyrus Linn.

GENUS *Cyperus* **FAMILY** Cyperaceae

COMMON NAMES Papyrus sedge

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Rhizome, Root, Culms, Stems, Shoots, Vegetable, Spice

The tender shoots and rhizomes are cooked and eaten.
The thick pith of the stem is chewed like sugarcane.

DESCRIPTION

A sedge. These grow in clumps and have grass like leaves and solid stalks. It is an erect herb which grows in tufts. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows 2.5 m tall. It has a short, thick, woody underground stem or rhizome. The stems are triangle shaped. The leaves are reduced to brown sheaths. There are 4-10 flowering bracts. These are 7-15 cm long. They are about 1 cm wide. The flower is compound with over 100 branches 10-25 cm long. Each has a sheath like bract 3-5 cm long near the base. There are also 3-5 bracts about 20 cm long at the tip. When the flowers are fertile there are 3-5 spikes with 20-30 spikelets. Each spikelet has 3-20 flowers. These are 1 cm long by 1 mm wide. The nut is 3 sided and brown.

HABITAT

It needs tropical conditions. It grows in marshy habitats and lakes. It will grow in slow flowing water. It will grow in water up to 1 m deep. It can grow in arid places. It suits hardiness zones 9-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Floating plants can grow and spread vegetatively. It can be grown by division.

NOTES

There are 550 Cyperus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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