



PLANT FACT SHEET

Vicia villosa Roth.

GENUS *Vicia* FAMILY Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Large Russian vetch, Fodder vetch, Hairy vetch

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds, Flowers - nectar

It is sometimes used as a vegetable. The leaves are eaten as a salad.

The unripe seeds are eaten raw as a snack. They are also cooked as a vegetable.

The flower nectar is eaten as a snack.

DESCRIPTION

A climbing herb. It is hairy and an annual plant. It has branched tendrils. It can grow 2 m long. The stems have long hairs. The stipules are not lobed. The leaves have 4-12 pairs of narrow leaflets. The groups of flowers are longer than the leaves. The flowers are violet, purple or blue. They are 10-20 mm long. There are 10-30 flowers in a raceme. The fruit are pods 20-40 mm long and brown. The seeds are round and black and 3-4 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. In China it grows between sea level and 1,800 m above sea level, mainly in north China. In Argentina it grows below 700 m above sea level.

NOTES

There are about 140 *Vicia* species. They are mostly temperate.

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