PLANT FACT SHEET

Lepidium bonariense L.

GENUS *Lepidium* **FAMILY** Brassicaceae

COMMON NAMES Argentine peppercress

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Spice

The leaves are used in salads.

DESCRIPTION

A cabbage family herb which either re-grows each year or can take 2 years to complete its life cycle. It grows 50 cm high. The stems are erect and branched. They are hairy. The leaves at the base have leaf stalks. These leaf blades are divided into 2 or 3 leaflets along the stalk. The leaves are 3-10 cm long and 1-4 cm wide. The lobes are narrow. The stem leaves become smaller up the stem. They do not have leaf stalks. The leaves are deeply divided or toothed. The flowers are dense. The petals are narrow and white. The fruit develop along the flowering stalk from the bottom up. Their stalks are 2-3 mm long. The dry pods are short and 2.5-3.5 mm long. The seeds are broadly oval and 1.5 mm long.

HABITAT

It grows on waste land. It grows in warm temperate places. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 3,300 m above sea level.

NOTES

There are about 150 Lepidium species.

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