



PLANT FACT SHEET

Coriandrum sativum L.

GENUS *Coriandrum* FAMILY Apiaceae

COMMON NAMES Coriander

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds, Herb, Spice, Roots, Vegetable, Flowers

The dried fruit are used in curry and flavourings.

The seeds are boiled and used as a drink.

The young plants and leaves are used in soups, sauces and as flavourings.

The root is also crushed and used as a seasoning.

DESCRIPTION

An annual herb up to 70 cm high. It spreads to 50 cm across. It has a fleshy taproot. The stem is erect and finely grooved. The leaves are compound, and divided along their length. The lower leaves have lobes, while the upper leaves are finely divided. The leaves are bright green, and glossy. Flowers are pink to white. They occur in flat arrangements, with stalks coming from the same point. The plant has an unpleasant smell until the fruit ripens. The fruit are pale brown. The fruit have lines along them. Some lines are wavy and some are straight.

HABITAT

A Mediterranean plant. Sometimes it does not set seed in the lowland tropics. It grows up to about 2200 m altitude in the tropics. It prefers light to medium, well-drained soils. It suits an open sunny position. It is drought and frost tender. In Nepal it grows to 3000 m altitude. It can grow in arid places. It suits hardiness zones 6-9.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. They are planted where they are to grow.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants mature after about 3 months. It is important to dry the fruit before use, to get rid of an unpleasant smell.

NOTES

There are 2 *Coriandrum* species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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