PLANT FACT SHEET

**Use with caution**

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

# *Chromolaena odorata* (L.) R. M. King & H Robinson

**GENUS** *Chromolaena* **FAMILY** Asteraceae

**COMMON NAMES** Christmas bush, Jack-in-the-bush, Siam weed

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Leaves

Young leaves are cooked and eaten with other vegetables.
Caution: Leaves can contain high levels of nitrates and also alkaloids.

## DESCRIPTION

A herb. It grows 1-2 m tall. It can be scrambling. It can form roots along the stems. The leaves are simple and can have teeth along the edge. They are 4.5-11 cm long by 2-5.5 cm wide. They are hairy on the top side. Underneath they are very hairy have small glands. The leaf stalks are 1-1.7 cm long. The flowers are in heads at the ends of the stalks or in the axils of leaves. The heads are 5 mm across. They are white, pink or purple. The bracts are green. The fruit is a nut. It is brown to black and 4 mm long.

## HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It is one of the plants to grow first in areas where forest has been removed. It grows best in well drained soil and a rainfall above 1,000 mm. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 2,000 m above sea level. In Yunnan.

## PRODUCTION

### Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing.

## NOTES

It is considered a serious weed in countries where it has been newly introduced.

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**ONLINE FACT SHEET** https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/1d0dfe09-ad4a-46e1-b965-5c27eabe9ad3