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.

Lotus australis Andrews

GENUS *Lotus* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Australian Trefoil, Native Birdsfoot trefoil

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds

DESCRIPTION

A plant which keeps growing from year to year. It grows to 60 cm high and spreads to 50 cm across. The stems are erect and smooth and hairy. The leaves are light green and divided. It has narrow soft leaflets 2 cm long. The flowers are pea shaped and pink. They are large and occur in dense heads. The fruit are pods. These are 3.5-4 cm long and 3 mm wide. They are stiff and smooth. The seeds are dark brown to black and 1.5 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It prefers light to medium soils. It needs a protected, shady position. It is frost resistant and can stand salt spray. It is damaged by drought. It needs a well drained sandy soil and full sun. Tasmania Herbarium.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings. Firm tip cuttings are used.

NOTES

This plant has been reported as toxic to animals. There are about 100-150 Lotus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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