PLANT FACT SHEET

Puya raimondii Harms

GENUS *Puya* **FAMILY** Bromeliaceae

COMMON NAMES Queen of the Andes

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flower stalk - spice

The inner core of the flower stalk is dried and powdered and used as a spice.
The flower stalk pulp is fermented into an alcoholic drink.

DESCRIPTION

A column like plant that grows 9.5 m tall. It dies after fruit is formed. The stem is simple and erect and 4 m tall by 60 cm wide. There is a dense ring of leaves. The leaves can be 1-1.25 m long. The leaf sheaths are 15 cm wide. The leaf blades are stiff and spreading and 9 cm wide. At first they have white scales. The flower stalk is 4.3 m long by 60 cm across.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in the high Andes. It grows between 2,400-4,050 m above sea level.

REFERENCES

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/2434c18e-53c8-4b7e-b135-112e45cf58c3