PLANT FACT SHEET

Pueraria tuberosa (Roxb. ex Willd.) DC.

GENUS *Pueraria* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Indian Kudzu

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Roots, Tubers, Leaves, Tendrils

The tuberous roots are eaten. Young tender ones are eaten raw and older ones are boiled and eaten. They can also be used to extract starch.
The leaves are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A herb or shrub. It is a woody twiner or climber. It is hairy. It has long straight tuberous roots. These are like beads and 6-15 cm across and deep in the soil. It looses its leaves during the year. The leaves have 3 leaflets. The leaflets are large. They are 10-20 cm long and have silky hairs when young. The side leaflets have unequal sides. The flowers are pink. They are in long stalks. These can be 15-40 cm long. They appear when the plant is leafless. The petals are 1-1.8 cm across. The pods have 3-6 seeds.

HABITAT

A subtropical plant. Western Himalayas. It grows on the edges of fields and in wasteland. It grows in higher rainfall areas.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

The tubers can be 20-30 cm across and 30-60 cm long. They can weigh 35 kg.

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