PLANT FACT SHEET

Trichosanthes tricuspidata Lour.

GENUS *Trichosanthes* **FAMILY** Cucurbitaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Root, Seeds

The young leaves are edible. They are cooked as a vegetable.
The root is roasted or boiled and eaten.
The seeds are roasted and then eaten.
CAUTION: The fruit are poisonous.

DESCRIPTION

A pumpkin family plant. It is a vine or soft climber. It can grow 5-6 m long. The tendrils are divided into 3. The leave vary. They have 3-5 lobes and are heart shaped at the base. The lobes are oval and have teeth along the edge. Male and female flowers are separate. Male flowers are in groups of 5-10 and female flowers occur singly. The flowers are white and the corolla petals are wedge shaped and fringed. The fruit are round or oval. They turn red when ripe and have orange streaks.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In India it grows between 1,200-2,300 m above sea level.

NOTES

It is used in medicine.

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