PLANT FACT SHEET

Asparagus laricinus Burch.

GENUS *Asparagus* **FAMILY** Asparagaceae

COMMON NAMES Cluster-leaved asparagus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Shoots, Vegetable, Fruit, Stems

The young shoots are eaten as a vegetable.
The fruit are eaten as a snack.

DESCRIPTION

A wiry twining shrub. It grows a few metres high. It is spiny. The stems are woody and hairy and have grooves. The leaves are needle like and in rings along the branches. There are about 60 in a cluster. They are 3.5 cm long and very fine. The flowers are small and white. They have a sweet scent. The fruit are green berries that turn red as they ripen. They contain one seed.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows on the edges of forests. It can grow on termite mounds. It grows on well-drained soils. In southern Africa it grows between 60-2,070 m altitude. It can grow in arid places.

NOTES

There are between 160-300 Asparagus species.

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