PLANT FACT SHEET

Zingiber zerumbet (L.) Roscoe ex Smith

GENUS *Zingiber* **FAMILY** Zingiberaceae

COMMON NAMES Wild ginger, Fragrant ginger, Pine cone ginger

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Rhizomes, Root, Leaves, Flowers

The rhizome and leaves are eaten as a vegetable or used as flavouring in cooking. They are used in chutney. They are also used in medicine and magic.
The flowers are cooked by frying and eaten as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

An upright clumpy ginger family herb up to 0.4-1 m high. The rhizome is thick and yellow. The stems are stout. The leaves do not have a leaf stalk. Leaves are broadly sword shaped. The base is narrowed. They taper to the tip. The leaves are shorter and fatter than true ginger. They are 15-40 cm long by 3-8 cm wide. The flower cone is also longer and thinner than true ginger. The flower comes from the rhizome and is cone shaped and 6-15 cm long by 3.5-5 cm wide. The stalk is 10-30 cm long. The sheaths are scale like. The bracts are green when young and red when old. The fruit is a capsule which is 0.8-1.2 cm across. The seeds are black.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in tropical Asia. It occurs in coastal areas in the Philippines. It is most common in damp open forest. It suits seasonally moist and dry climates. It needs a fertile, organically-rich, well-drained soil. It grows in S China. It suits hardiness zones 8-12. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It mostly grows wild in regrowth forest. It can be grown from sections of the rhizome.

NOTES

There are about 100-150 Zingiber species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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