PLANT FACT SHEET

Alpinia globosa (Lour.) Horan

GENUS *Alpinia* **FAMILY** Zingiberaceae

COMMON NAMES Chinese cardamom

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Spice

The seeds are used to spice food. They have a pine like flavour.

DESCRIPTION

An erect ginger family herb. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows 1.3 m tall. The leaves are oblong and 60 cm long by 12 cm wide. There are fine teeth along the edge. It tapers at the tip. The flower spike is at the top of the plant. Each bract has 4 flowers. The flowers are 3 cm wide and white with red. The fruit is a round capsule. It is 1-3 cm across. There are 5-7 seeds which have 3 angles.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In southern China it grows in forests between 100-300 m above sea level. In Yunnan.

NOTES

There are about 200-230 Alpinia species. They are mostly tropical and subtropical.

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