PLANT FACT SHEET

Trichosanthes ovigera Blume

GENUS *Trichosanthes* **FAMILY** Cucurbitaceae

COMMON NAMES Japanese Snake gourd

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit, Roots

The roots are used for starch.

DESCRIPTION

A pumpkin family plant. It is a climbing herb. The tendrils can be simple or have 2 or 3 branches. They arise near the leaf. The leaves have 3-5 lobes. They are 5-16 cm long and 4.5-13.5 cm wide. The leaf stalks are 2-6.5 cm long. The flowers are white. They are 3.5-4 cm across. The fruit are oval. They are orange or reddish and 3.5-6 cm long by 2.5-3.5 cm wide. There are several seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. In Vietnam it grows at 2,000 m altitude. In Australia it grows in rainforest or monsoon forest between 70-1000 m altitude.

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