PLANT FACT SHEET

Erythrostemon gilliesii (W. J. Hooker) Klotzsch

GENUS *Erythrostemon* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Bird of paradise tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers - spice

The flower stamen are used to adulterate saffron.
Caution:

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It can be 5 m high. The branches are smooth. The leaves are 10-20 cm long. There are 7-11 pairs of leaflets. The flowers are at the end of the branches. The flowers are bright yellow with orange markings. The stamen are bright red and 8 cm long. The fruit are oblong and curved pods. They are 6-12 cm long by 1-2 cm wide and flat.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It needs a light to medium well-drained soil. It should be rich in humus. It needs a protected partly shaded position. It is damaged by drought or frost. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 2,500 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed. The seed need treatment before sowing. They can also be grown from cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 150 Caesalpinia species. Also as Caesalpinaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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