PLANT FACT SHEET

Alstroemeria ligtu Linn.

GENUS *Alstroemeria* **FAMILY** Alstroemeriaceae

COMMON NAMES Alstroemeria, Peru untu, St Martin's flower

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root

The root is cooked and eaten. It is especially fed to children. It can be processed to flour.

DESCRIPTION

A perennial plant. It grows 60 cm high and spreading to 1 m across. The leaves are 8 cm long. Flowers are purple and pink. They usually have a yellow throat and darker spots. The flowers are 2 or 3 in heads in clusters of up to 8.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate plant. It grows naturally in dry scrub in rocky sandy soils in Chile. It requires a moist well drained soil and a warm situation. They can grow in seaside gardens. It suits hardiness zones 8-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plant roots 15-20 cm deep when dormant. Plants can be grown from seed. Stored seed need to be treated by soaking in warm water for 12 hours before planting. Plants do not transplant easily.

NOTES

There are about 50-80 Alstroemeria species. They occur in South America especially in cool mountain regions.

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Pl. Alstromeria 10. 1762 (Amoen. acad. 6:254. 1763)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/428a7b9f-3624-4a9d-acd2-a9da6ee67ae8