PLANT FACT SHEET

Diuris maculata Smith

GENUS *Diuris* **FAMILY** Orchidaceae

COMMON NAMES Leopard orchid, Common donkey-orchid, Spotted Double Tails

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Tubers, Root

DESCRIPTION

A ground orchid. The leaves are 30 cm long and 0.3-0.5 cm wide. There are 2-3 leaves per plant. The flowering stems are 15-35 cm long. The flowers are yellow and 2.5 cm across. They have dark brown blotches and spots. There are 2-3 flowers but up to 10 blooms on each flower stem. The petals are oval or round.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate plant. It grows in heathlands and open forests in rocky places. It is best in light, sandy, well-drained soils in a protected shaded position. It is damaged by drought and frost. It suits hardiness zones 8-11.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. They can also be grown by division.

NOTES

There are about 50 Diurus species. The Tasmanian plant may be Diuris pardina.

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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