PLANT FACT SHEET

Bromelia karatas L.

GENUS *Bromelia* **FAMILY** Bromeliaceae

COMMON NAMES Ananas pingouin, Camburito, Karatas, Pina pico, Wild pine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Flowers, Bulbs, Leaves

The fruit are eaten raw and used for drinks. The skin must be peeled off and there are many seeds. The fruit is eaten with some salt to stop the sap irritating the mouth.
The very young flowering shoots is sometimes cooked and eaten as a vegetable. The young flower stalks are eaten as a vegetable.
The bulbs are cooked and then sun-dried and then pulverised and reduced to flour.

DESCRIPTION

A herb without a stem. The leaves form tufts. The leaves are arranged in rings. It has suckers around it. The clump can be 3 m across. The leaf blades are 3-5 cm across. The edges of the leaves have curved spines. At flowering the inner leaves become bright red. The flower stalk arises from the centre of the ring of leaves and the flowers are purplish-pink with white bracts. The fruit are yellow berries shaped like bananas. They are 8 cm long by 2 cm across. They form a clump but are not joined. The pulp has black seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in forests near the edge of savannas. It does well in shade.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from suckers. It can be grown as a hedge.

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