PLANT FACT SHEET

Hordeum bulbosum L.

GENUS *Hordeum* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Bulbous barley

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Root, Cereal, Bulbs

The grains are used as food. They are ground into flour and used as a cereal for bread or porridge.
The roots are chewed and sometimes eaten.
The bulbs are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It is an erect grass that keeps growing from year to year. It grows 1.2 m high. It has thickened bulbs near the base of the flower stem. It can have 1-4 bulbs on a stalk and these are 5-45 mm long by 3017 mm wide. The leaves are flat and 9 mm wide. There are prickly hairs on the surface of the leaf. The flowering spikes are 45-165 mm long. It out-breeds and cannot pollinate itself. Plants can have 2 or 4 sets of chromosomes.

HABITAT

It is a Mediterranean climate plant. It grows in dry soils. It can grow in arid places. It can grow in areas with 300-400 mm rainfall.

NOTES

There are about 20 Hordeum species.

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