PLANT FACT SHEET

Tamarix gallica L.

GENUS *Tamarix* **FAMILY** Tamaricaceae

COMMON NAMES French Tamarix, Manna plant

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Manna, Sap, Flower

When the stem is cut, a honey-like substance is produced and is eaten by desert Bedouins. It is mixed with flour, sugar or honey and sweet almonds and made into cakes.

DESCRIPTION

A small slender tree. It loses its leaves during the year. It grows 3-10 m high. It branches densely from the base. The branches are long and thin. The bark is smooth and ashy grey. The bark and branches have lenticels. The leaves are very small and almost like scales. They are 3-5 mm wide. They are sword shaped and overlapping. They are bluish-green. The flowers are small and pink. They grow as many together in spike like racemes 2-4 cm long. They are mostly at the end of young branches. The fruit is a 3 sided capsule.

HABITAT

It is native to Sicily and Canary Is. It grows in temperate regions. It grows in coastal regions. It will grow on sandy soil. It can grow in salty soil. It suits hardiness zones 5-10. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The sap droplets melt in the heat of the sun so need to be collected before sunrise. The sap is released from the punctures of s very small insect.

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