PLANT FACT SHEET

Raphanus sativus var. longipinnatus L. H. Bailey

GENUS *Raphanus* **FAMILY** Brassicaceae

COMMON NAMES Chinese radish, Daikon, Oriental radish

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Roots, Leaves, Vegetable

The roots are cooked and eaten. They are used in stir-fried dishes and soups. They can be pickled.
The young leaves can be eaten cooked.
The roots can also be shredded and eaten raw in salads.
The young flowers are stir fried or added to soups.
The young seedlings can be cooked like spinach.
The peppery seeds can be used in salads and rice dishes. The pods can also be eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A cabbage family plant like a large radish. It has a large fleshy root and deeply divided leaves. The taproot is long and white. It takes one or two years to complete its life cycle. The stems can be 20-100 cm high. The leaves near the base are long. They are divided and have coarse teeth. The leaves up the stem are simple and narrow. The flowers develop at the top. They are usually white with purple veins. The fruit are pods about 3-8 cm long and 1.25 cm across. They have a long tapering beak. There are 6-12 round seeds. These can be yellow or brown.

Possibly now Raphanus raphanistrum subsp. sativus

HABITAT

A temperate plant. It is more common in lowland areas in the tropics. It needs a rich loose fertile soil. It suits hardiness zones 6-9.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. A spacing of 15 cm apart in rows is suitable. Often plants are sown more thickly and seedlings are thinned out and eaten. It is possible to save seed from plants.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants are ready for harvesting about 50 days after planting.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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