PLANT FACT SHEET

Asparagus filicinus Buch.-Ham. ex D.Don

GENUS *Asparagus* **FAMILY** Asparagaceae

COMMON NAMES Fern asparagus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Shoots, Vegetable

The tender shoots are cooked as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

An erect shrub. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows to 1.75 m high. The stems and branches are without spines. They have lines or ridges along them. The stem is flattened in the form of a leaf and they are curved and clustered. The rootstock has a short rhizome or underground stem. The roots are swollen at the base. The flowers are greenish or reddish. There are flowers of both sexes. They can be single or in pairs on stalks. The fruit are berries. They are round and black or deep green. They are 5-6 mm across. There are 2 or 3 seeds.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows in Nepal from 2000-2400 m altitude. It grows in rocky and shady places. It China it grows in shady, moist places along valleys between 1200-3000 m altitude in S China.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed or splitting the roots.

NOTES

There are between 160-300 Asparagus species.

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