PLANT FACT SHEET

Gomphrena globosa L.

GENUS *Gomphrena* **FAMILY** Amaranthaceae

COMMON NAMES Globe Amaranth

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable

It is used as a vegetable in Maluku.
The plant is cooked as a drink.

DESCRIPTION

An upright bushy annual herb. Plants grow 30-60 cm high and spread to 30 cm across. Plants can lay over and root along the nodes. The leaves are oval and 15 cm long. They grow in pairs along the stem. They are covered with dense white hairs when young. The flower heads are oval and 3.5 cm long. They can be pink, red, purple or white flower bracts.

HABITAT

It grows throughout the tropics. They can be damaged by frost. They need a well drained soil and full sunlight. The soil needs to be moderately fertile. Seed need a temperature above 15-18°C. In Papua New Guinea is occurs from sea level to about 600 m altitude. It can grow in arid places. It suits hardiness zones 7-11.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. The seedlings can be transplanted. Seed are sown 3-6 mm deep.

NOTES

There are about 90 Gomphrena species mostly in South America.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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