PLANT FACT SHEET

Canna glauca L.

GENUS *Canna* **FAMILY** Cannaceae

COMMON NAMES Mexican canna

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seed, Root, Rhizome

The rhizome is baked in ashes for 20 minutes.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It has long slender stems. These grow 1.2-2 m high. It has creeping, slender underground stems or rhizomes. It spreads 30-90 cm wide. The leaves are greyish and sword shaped. They are pointed. They are 45-70 cm long and white along the edges. They are 2-14 cm wide. They clasp the stem at the base. The flowers are yellow. They are in clusters of about 10. The flowers are 8-10 cm long. The fruit are 2-5 cm long and have warty projections over them. They contain many small seeds. They are brown with black marks.

HABITAT

A subtropical plant. They grow best in sunny positions. They need rich soils and can be in water 30 cm deep. It grows in seasonally wet locations. In Brazil it grows below 1,000 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 9-11.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown by division of the thick fleshy rhizome. Plants can be grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Rhizomes have a better taste when harvested in autumn or winter.

NOTES

There are about 50 Canna species. They grow in the tropics and subtropics.

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