PLANT FACT SHEET

Dracaena reflexa Lam.

GENUS *Dracaena* **FAMILY** Asparagaceae

COMMON NAMES Small-leaved dragon tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 3-5 m high but can be 12 m high. It is much branched. The bark is white and smooth and develops a papery peel. The leaves are narrow and 16-25 cm long by 1-2 cm wide. They are dark green. They tend to be in rosettes near the ends of branches. Flowers are cream in colour in loose spikes. They are at the ends of branches and 25 cm long. The flowers close during the day and open at night. The fruit is berry-like. It is 2-2.5 cm across and fleshy. It is bright red when ripe.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows naturally on the edge of moist evergreen forest. It can also be in swamp forest and dune forest. It suits hardiness zones 10-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is usually grown from stem cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 40 species of Dracaena. Also put in the family Dracaenaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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