PLANT FACT SHEET

Echinochloa frumentacea (Roxb.) Link.

GENUS *Echinochloa* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Japanese millet, Japanese Barnyard millet

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Cereal

The grains are used as food. They are cooked like rice or turned into flour. This is used in porridge or gruel. It is also boiled in milk.
The young shoots are also eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A cereal or millet. It is an annual grass. The culms are robust. It grows 1-1.5 m tall. The leaf sheaths are smooth. The leaves are broad. The leaf blade is soft and narrow. It is 15-40 cm long and 1-2.4 cm wide. The edges are thickened and wavy. The flower is erect and sword shaped. It is 10-20 cm long. The racemes are 1-3 cm long and closely spaced and overlapping. The spikelets are greenish. The grains are oval and light brown to purple.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is cultivated in S China. It can grow in arid places. Tasmanian Herbarium. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows quickly. It can be ready for harvest in about 6 weeks. It is used as a substitute crop if the rice crop fails.

NOTES

There are about 35 Echinochloa species. They grow in tropical to warm temperate regions.

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