PLANT FACT SHEET

Bomarea edulis (Tussac) Herb.

GENUS *Bomarea* **FAMILY** Alstroemeriaceae

COMMON NAMES White Jerusalem artichoke

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root, Tubers

The tubers are sweet and starchy and boiled then eaten.
They are also used for the extraction of starch.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It is a climber that keeps growing from year to year. It grows 3 m tall. The stems are slender and supple. They are branching. The leaves are alternate and sword shaped. They are 5-18 cm long by 2-5 cm wide. The flowers are pink and hang down. They have purple spots. The seeds are 5 mm long by 4 mm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in tropical America. It occurs at low altitudes. In Costa Rica it grows below 1,000 m altitude. It needs well drained soil. It does best with a night temperature above 10°C. It is damaged by drought and frost. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 3,000 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from tubers. They are planted 15 cm deep. Plants can be grown from seed. Fresh seed will germinate in a few weeks.

NOTES

There are 100-200 Bomarea species. They are climbers in the Andes cloudforest in Central and South America.

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