PLANT FACT SHEET

Panicum hirticaule J. Presl.

GENUS *Panicum* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Sowi millet, Sonoran panic-grass

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Cereal

The seeds are ground into a meal and used to make bread.
The seed is cooked or ground into a flour. It is used in tortillas and tamales.
The flour is seasoned with salt and sugar and mixed with milk to make a drink.

DESCRIPTION

An annual millet grass. It grows 10-80 cm tall. The leaves are hairy and 15 cm long. The flowers are in a branching panicle 12 cm long. The spikelets are rounded. The cultivated form has larger spikelets.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in poor soil. It needs full sunlight and a well drained soil. It is damaged by frosts. It suits semiarid areas. It can grow in the desert.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. They can be broadcast.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Some varieties are fast growing and heat tolerant.

NOTES

There are about 500 Panicum species.

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