PLANT FACT SHEET

Arundo donax L.

GENUS *Arundo* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Biblical Reed, Giant Reed

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Shoots, Roots

The young shoots are chewed and are sweet. They are used for flavouring.
The stems are used as a preservative for tomatoes and olives.

DESCRIPTION

A large grass. It grows 3.7-4.5 m tall and 1.2-1.8 m wide. It forms clumps. It has rhizomes. The stems are like bamboo. They can be 6 m tall. The leaves are drooping and grey-green. They are 60 cm long. They have thick joints and slender stems. The flower plumes are feathery and purple at first but white later. They grow on second year stems in mild climates.

HABITAT

A temperate plant. It is frost hardy. It can grow in the tropics. It grows in Nepal from 1500-2400 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 7-11. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from cuttings or seeds.

NOTES

There are 2 or 3 Arundo species. The rhizome is used in medicine in Nepal. It can become invasive.

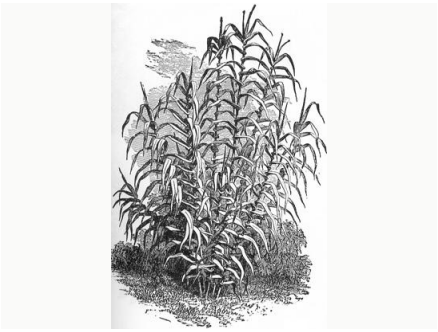
PICTURES



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