PLANT FACT SHEET

Hibiscus acetosella Welw. ex Hiern.

GENUS *Hibiscus* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Red-leaf hibiscus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit, Spice, Vegetable, Root, Flowers

The leaves are eaten raw or cooked. They can be steamed or put into soups and stews. They are often wilted in the sun.
The young pods can also be used. The seeds can be roasted and used as a coffee drink.
The flower petals are eaten as a drink.
The root can be eaten but has little taste and is fibrous.

DESCRIPTION

An annual plant. It grows 2-5 m high. It has a few hairs. It has leaves growing close to the ground The leaves are shiny and red or green. They are usually deeply lobed. They are 10 cm long. The flowers are pink. They are in the axils of leaves. The fruit are oval and about 2.5 cm long and have bristles. It can be used as a hedge plant.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is best in sites sheltered from strong winds. It needs fertile, well-drained soil and full sun. It can grow in arid places. In XTBG Yunnan. At ECHO.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. Seed are planted about 1 cm deep and 1 m apart. It can also be grown by cuttings. It can be grown as a hedge.

Harvesting and Seed Production

By pruning as a hedge, large amounts of leaves can be produced in a small space. The leaves are usually collected in the rainy season. Young leaves are plucked from the plant.

NOTES

There are about 220 Hibiscus species.
It is resistant to root knot nematode.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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