



PLANT FACT SHEET

Ageratum conyzoides (L.) L.

GENUS *Ageratum* FAMILY Asteraceae

COMMON NAMES Billygoat Plant, Goatweed

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - oil, Flowers - oil, Seeds - oil, Leaves, Vegetable, Salt, Leaves - tea

The plant produces an essential oil used for flavouring.

The young leaves are cooked and eaten. They are occasionally added to soup or cooked with other vegetables.

CAUTION: Only use very sparingly.

DESCRIPTION

A small annual under shrub. It grows to 0.6 m tall and spreads to 1 m across. The stem is erect and branching. The leaves are oval and opposite. They are 6 cm long by 4 cm wide. They taper towards the tip and are hairy. The edges have teeth. The flowers are white and insignificant. They occur in small clusters at the ends of branches. The fruit are dry, black hairy capsules.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It does best in well composted well drained soils. It suits a sunny position. It is drought and frost tender. It can grow in arid places. In Sikkim it grows between 200-2,000 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed.

NOTES

It is used for medicine in Nepal. The leaves are used externally and the flower heads are taken in small doses. It has anti-bacterial properties. There are about 40 *Ageratum* species.

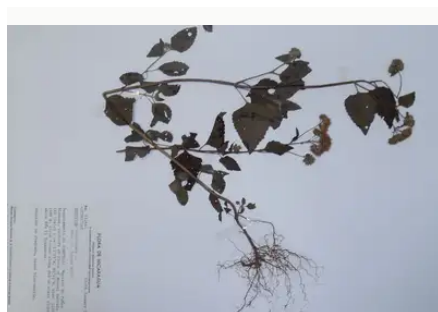
PICTURES



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