PLANT FACT SHEET

Gardenia jasminoides Ellis

GENUS *Gardenia* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

COMMON NAMES Cape Gardenia, Cape jasmine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers - flavouring, Fruit - colouring

The fruit are used for food colouring.
The fruit are eaten raw or pickled.
The oil is used to flavour or scent tea.
The fruit yield a yellow colouring used as a substitute for saffron.
The petals of the flowers are fried with powdered rice and eaten. The flowers have been used for scenting tea.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 1-2 m high. It loses its leaves during the year. The leaves are opposite. They are simple and oval. They are thick and glossy. They are 10 cm long by 5-7 cm wide. The flowers are single and in the axils of leaves. They are 7-8 cm across. They have many petals. These are white. The flowers have a sweet smell. The fruit is oval and fleshy. There are many seeds inside. The fruit are like berries and 1-2 cm long by 10-15 mm wide. They are orange when ripe.

HABITAT

A tropical and subtropical plant. It needs an acid soil with pH 5.0-6.0. It needs a temperature above 10°C. It suits hardiness zones 10-11. In XTBG Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is usually grown from cuttings. They are dipped in rooting hormone. It can be grown from seed sown at a temperature of 19-24°C.

NOTES

There are about 200 Gardenia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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