PLANT FACT SHEET

Alpinia officinarum Hance

GENUS *Alpinia* **FAMILY** Zingiberaceae

COMMON NAMES Lesser galangal

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Roots, Spice, Rhizome, Vegetable

The rhizome is used to flavour food. It is used in curry powder blends.
It has a flavour like a mixture of pepper and ginger.
The leaves are also eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. The false stem 1-1.5 m tall. The rhizome is elongated. The leaves do not have stalks. The leaf blade in narrow and 20-30 cm long by 1.2-2.5 cm wide. The flower stalk is erect and 6-10 cm long. The flowers are borne singly. They are white with a red veined lip. The fruit is a capsule which is red and round. It is about 1 cm across.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in S China. In XTBG Yunnan.

NOTES

It is used in medicine. There are about 200-230 Alpinia species. They are mostly tropical and subtropical.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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