PLANT FACT SHEET

Cucumis melo subsp. agrestis L., (Naudin) Pangalo

GENUS *Cucumis* **FAMILY** Cucurbitaceae

COMMON NAMES Early melon, Native gooseberry, People's melon

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Seeds

The ripe fruit are eaten raw. The skin can be bitter.
The immature fruit are cooked as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A pumpkin family plant. It is a twining annual herb. The stems are angular and coarsely hairy. They are brittle. The leaves can be almost round or kidney shaped. They can be 3-6 lobed and with teeth. The leaves are 0.3-0.8 cm long by 0.2-0.4 cm wide. The texture is somewhat rough. The flowers are yellow. The male flowers are in clusters and the female flowers occur singly. The fruit are green and oval. They are 2-5 cm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. They grow in Nepal up to 800 m altitude. They grow in sandy places. In Australia they grow along stream banks and flood plains in inland areas. Plants are very frost tender. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seeds grow easily under warm, moist conditions.

NOTES

There are about 25 Cucumis species.

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