PLANT FACT SHEET

Euphorbia esula L.

GENUS *Euphorbia* **FAMILY** Euphorbiaceae

COMMON NAMES Leafy spurge

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

Caution: All Euphorbias or spurges have irritating sap and many have chemicals that can cause cancer.

DESCRIPTION

A small herb. It grows 15-60 cm high. It has tough deep roots and keeps growing from these from year to year. The leaves are alternate and narrowly oblong. They are scattered along the stem and in rings at the top. The flower is yellowish-green and they are in heads. The male and female flowers are on a pair of leaf like bracts. The fruit is a dry capsule. It has 3 seeds.

HABITAT

It grows in fields and waste places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can grow from seed or from creeping roots.

NOTES

There are about 2000 Euphorbia species. Most Euphorbias have sap which irritates the skin.

REFERENCES

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