PLANT FACT SHEET

Portulaca grandiflora (L.), (Hook.) Geesink

GENUS *Portulaca* **FAMILY** Portulacaceae

COMMON NAMES Rose moss, Sun plant

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Root, Seeds

The seeds are eaten raw or cooked. They can be ground into powder and used in soups.
The leaves are eaten raw or cooked.
The root is eaten cooked.
Caution: It can contain oxalates.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It grows each year from seed. It grows 10-30 cm high. It spreads 15-30 cm wide. The stems lie along the ground. They are purple-red and with many branches. There are hairs clustered at the nodes. The leaves are crowded at the tips of the stem. The leaves are 10-25 mm long by 2-3 mm wide. The flowers are large. They are 2-4 cm across. They open at midday. The flowers can be red, purple, yellow or white. The fruit is a capsule with very small seeds. They are kidney shaped and less than 1 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a tropical and subtropical plant. It is best in dry poor soil. They can tolerate drought. It is damaged by frost. It needs well-drained soil. It needs full sun. It is cultivated in China. It suits hardiness zones 8-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The seed are scattered and simply pressed into the soil lightly. Seedlings can be transplanted. Plants are spaced 15 cm apart.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is slow growing.

NOTES

Used as a medicine in Indonesia. There are about 200 Portulaca species. They are mostly in the tropics and subtropics. It is ornamental and medicinal in China.

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