PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Gloriosa superba Lindl.

GENUS *Gloriosa* **FAMILY** Colchicaceae

COMMON NAMES Flame lily

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit

CAUTION: Many plants in this genus are poisonous. The tubers contain the poison colchicine.
The leaves are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A scrambling herb. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows 1.5 m long. The leaves are alternate. The leaf tips end in a coiled tendril. The flowers are orange or red and have 6 tepals that curve backwards. There are 6 long stamen that spread out parallel to the ground under the flower. The fruit is a leathery capsule with bright red seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in grassland and woodland. In southern China it grows between 900-1,300 m above sea level. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from bulblets, division of the tubers and from seeds. Seeds germinate better if soaked in hot water.

NOTES

There are about 5 Gloriosa species. Some say it is one variable species. Gloriosa superba rhizomes in China are rich in the alkaloid colchicine. The plant are used for the treatment of gout.
In Slovenia possibly in a hot house.

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