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.

Furcraea foetida (L.) Haw.

GENUS *Furcraea* **FAMILY** Asparagaceae

COMMON NAMES Mauritius hemp

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: shoots, Leaves - drink

The young buds are cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

It is like an Agave. It is a herb that keeps growing from year to year. It grows 1.5-6 m high. Some forms have prickles and some do not. The leaves are sword shaped. They are green and in rings. The flowers are on long stalks. The flowers are drooping and bell shaped. They are white. Plants flower only once then die. The bruised leaves have a bad smell.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows naturally in tropical America. It can grow in warm temperate places. It grows easily on grey sand over limestone. It suits drier tropical regions. Mt Cootha Botanical Gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from offsets of the main plant. It can also be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants usually live for 12-15 years before flowering.

NOTES

There are 20-25 Furcraea species. They grow in tropical America.
Also put in the family Agavaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/840ccb7a-a54a-4935-98d6-1cd794ec259c