PLANT FACT SHEET

Praecitrullus fistulosus (Stocks) Pangalo

GENUS *Praecitrullus* **FAMILY** Cucurbitaceae

COMMON NAMES Round-melon, Squash-melon

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Vegetable

The young fruit is cooked as a vegetable. They can be pickled, candied or made into preserves. They are used in soups.
The seeds are roasted and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A pumpkin family plant. It is an annual herb that lies along the ground of climbs. It has hairy stems and tendrils. The leaves are alternate and simple. The leaves are oval and 15 cm long. They have leaf lobes along it and teeth along the edge. The flowers occur singly in the axils of leaves. They are small and yellow. The fruit is a flattened round berry. It is 6-12 cm across. It has rough bristles when young. The fruit are green outside and pale green inside. There are many seeds.

Possibly now Benincasa fistulosa

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It suits a warm and dry climate. A temperature of 26-30°C is best. A warm temperature is needed for seed germination. A pH of 6-7 is suitable.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seed are soaked in water to hasten germination. They germinate in 5-7 days.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruit are ready 60-90 days after sowing. The fruit are edible 6-8 days after fruit set. Fruit are harvested young and immature.

NOTES

There is only one Praecitrullus species.

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