PLANT FACT SHEET

Pennisetum purpureum Schumach. & Thonn.

GENUS *Pennisetum* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Elephant grass, Napier grass

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Shoots, Vegetable

The young shoots or leaves are added to soup. They are also stir fried.
The stalks are reduced to ash and then the soluble and insoluble parts separated out with water to produce vegetable salt.

DESCRIPTION

A grass which keeps growing from year to year. It forms large clumps. It can grow 2-4 m tall. The leaf blades are 4 cm wide. The edges become very sharp. The flowers are dense and spike like. They are yellow, brown and purple.

Now Cenchrus purpureus

HABITAT

It is a tropical grass. It grows in sand and loam. It can grow in warm temperate areas. It does well in fertile soils with a rainfall or 1,000-1,500 mm per year. It grows below 2,300 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from cuttings. It can also be grown by seeds or division of the clump.

NOTES

There are about 100 Pennisetum species.

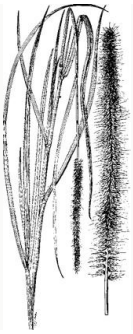
PICTURES



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