PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Mussaenda frondosa* L.

**GENUS** *Mussaenda* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Handerchief plant, White Mussaenda

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Leaves, Flowers, Root

The enlarged flower sepals are eaten as a vegetable.
The young leaves are eaten as a pot herb.

## DESCRIPTION

A large climbing shrub. The stems are erect. It grows 3 m or more tall. The leaves are oblong and pointed. They are 15 cm long. They are downy underneath. The flowers are small and yellow. They occur in clusters at the ends of branches. They are trumpet shaped. The flowers have white sepals. The fruit is like a berry and is about 1 cm long. There are many seeds.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in tropical Asia. In Indonesia it grows from the coast up to 2,000 m above sea level. It is often on the edge of forests and near water. It needs regular moisture and fertile, sandy, humus-rich soil. The soil needs to be well-drained. It needs full sun. It occurs in the Western Ghats in India. It suits hardiness zones 10-12.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

It can be grown by seeds or cuttings.

## NOTES

There are about 100 Mussaenda species.

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