PLANT FACT SHEET

Crocus hyemalis Boiss. & Blanche

GENUS *Crocus* **FAMILY** Iridaceae

COMMON NAMES Winter crocus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Bulb, Corm, Root, Food colouring

The bulbs (corms) are roasted and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A corm plant that grows each year producing a new corm. The stems are 4-8 cm long. The leaves are in a ring at the base. They are narrow and have a white stripe down the centre. The flowers occur singly. The flower petals are white. There are 3 black stamens. The fruit is a capsule with several seeds.

HABITAT

It is a Mediterranean climate plant. It grows in the mountains. It is sensitive to frost. It is best in a fertile well drained soil. It needs a dry summer.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seeds. Five seeds are planted together as 15 cm depth. It is best in a drier location.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It flowers after the long Israel summer.

NOTES

There are about 80 Crocus species.

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