PLANT FACT SHEET

Allium carolinianum DC,

GENUS *Allium* **FAMILY** Amaryllidaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Leaves, Roots, Bulb

The bulbs are eaten raw or cooked.
The leaves are eaten raw or cooked. They are also dried and used in curries and pickles.
The flowers are used raw or to flavour salads.
The leaves are crushed and dried cakes made out of this mass then stored for later use.

DESCRIPTION

An onion family plant. A bulb plant. The bulbs are usually in pairs. They are 1-2.5 cm across. The covering is brown to yellowish brown and leathery. It grows to 40 cm high and 12 cm across. The leaves are broadly linear. They are 5-15 mm wide. They are flat and smooth. The scape is 20-40 cm long. It is covered with leaf sheaths for 1/2 its length. The flower head is round and dense with many flowers.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows naturally in the Himalayas from Afghanistan to Nepal on stony slopes between 3000 - 4500 metres. In China it grows on gravely or stony slopes between 3000-5000 m altitude in W China.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or by division of clumps. Bulbs should be planted fairly deeply.

NOTES

There are about 300-700 Allium species. Most species of Allium are edible (Flora of China). All alliums are edible but they may not all be worth eating!
They have also been put in the family Alliaceae.

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