PLANT FACT SHEET

Tigridia pavonia (L. f.) DC.

GENUS *Tigridia* **FAMILY** Iridaceae

COMMON NAMES Tiger flower, Mexican shell flower

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root, Bulb, Vegetable

The bulbs are roasted and eaten. They are starchy and have a chestnut like flavour.

DESCRIPTION

A plant with a corm. It grows 40-60 cm high and 10-15 cm wide. The leaves form a fan shape from the base. There are 2 ranks of leaves which sheath the stem. The leaves are 25-40 cm long. The flowers have 3 large segments. When fully open they are 10 cm across. The colours range from red, orange, yellow, white and purple. There are often spots on the inner segments.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows in the cloud forest zone in Mexico. It is damaged by frost. It suits hardiness zones 9-10.

NOTES

There are about 35 Tigridia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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