PLANT FACT SHEET

Hordeum murinum L.

GENUS *Hordeum* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Mouse barley, Barley grass, Foxtail barley, Wall barley

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Cereal

The seeds are eaten cooked as flour. It is also used to make a hot drink called pinole.
Caution: It has sharp coarse awns that can irritate the mouth.

DESCRIPTION

A tufted annual grass. It grows 15-30 cm high. The stems are smooth and slender. The leaves are flat and 20 cm long by 2-8 mm wide. The veins underneath the leaf are rough to touch. The flowers occur in a spike. They are clustered in a dense erect head. This is 3-10 cm long. It breaks up at maturity. It has long erect awns. The side 2 spikelets are not longer nor plumper than the central one. There are several subspecies.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It occurs in pastures and can be in salty locations. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 2,300 m above sea level.

NOTES

There are about 20 Hordeum species.

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