PLANT FACT SHEET

Oryza glaberrima Steud.

GENUS *Oryza* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Floating rice, African rice

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Cereal

The grain can be cooked and eaten.
It is also ground into flour. This is sweetened with rice flour and honey for bread.
It is fermented into beer.

DESCRIPTION

An annual grass. Most varieties have a reddish colour. It grows 1.5 m but can be 5 m in some floating kinds. Dryland types often form tufts and floating rice often branches. The leaves are alternate and simple. The leaf sheath is 25 cm long. The leaf blade is 20-25 cm long and 6-9 mm wide. The flowers are in a compact group 25 cm long at the top of the plant. The fruit is a grain 9 mm long by 3 mm wide.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It is grown in swamps. It grows on flood plains of savanna regions. It does best with temperatures of 30-35°C. It grows from sea level to 1,700 m altitude. It can tolerate low soil fertility. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Usually seeds remain dormant for a few months after harvesting. Seed usually emerge after 4-5 days. Seed are usually broadcast without using a nursery. The juvenile stage lasts for 3 weeks then tillering occurs for 3-4 weeks.

NOTES

There are about 20 Oryza species. This is a diploid species with AgAg genome.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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