PLANT FACT SHEET

Portulaca pilosa L.

GENUS *Portulaca* **FAMILY** Portulacaceae

COMMON NAMES Hairy portulaca

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Tuber, Root, Leaves

The leaves are bitter. They are cooked and eaten and also used for herbal tea.
The leaves are used as a green vegetable.
The root tubers are used for savoury preparations.

DESCRIPTION

An annual herb. It is soft and succulent. It has a taproot and can keep growing for a few years. It lies along the ground. It is 5-20 cm high and 30-50 cm wide. The leaves are narrow and hairy. They are 10-20 mm long by 1-4 mm wide. The flowers are pink or yellow. They are small and about 2 cm across. The fruit is a straw yellow capsule with very tiny seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in a range of tropical places. It grows near rocks along rocky coastlines. It is common in dry open places. It needs well drained soil and a sunny position. It can grow in arid places. It can grow in salty soils.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed.

NOTES

There are about 200 Portulaca species. They are mostly in the tropics and subtropics.

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