PLANT FACT SHEET

Hibiscus meraukensis Hockr.

GENUS *Hibiscus* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Merauke Hibiscus, Bush hibiscus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Flowers, Roots

The seeds are eaten raw.
The taproot is cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An erect annual shrub. It grows 1-2 m high. The stems are hairy. The leaves are coarse and dark green. The size and shape of the leaves varies. The lower leaves can be divided into 3-5 narrow lobes. The leaf blade is 10-18 cm long by 2.5-8.5 cm wide. The flowers are large and white. They have a red centre. They are about 7-10 cm across. Flowers occur singly and in the axils of leaves. The fruit are slightly woody capsules. These are about 1.5-1.7 cm long and 1.5 cm wide. The seeds inside are dark brown and kidney shaped.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. Plants grow naturally in open forest often on poor soils. They can be along the banks of rivers.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. They can also be grown by cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 220 Hibiscus species.

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