PLANT FACT SHEET

Gomphrena celosioides Mart.

GENUS *Gomphrena* **FAMILY** Amaranthaceae

COMMON NAMES Prostrate globe-amaranth, Soft khaki weed

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

The leaves are cooked and eaten as a potherb. They can be dried and stored for later use.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It can lie along the ground or be erect. It grows each year from seeds. It can keep growing for several years. It forms mats. It has an unpleasant smell. It grows 10-30 cm high. It has long silky hairs. The stems are angled. They branch and are red and hairy. The leaves are opposite and hairy. The flowers form round heads. They have papery white bracts.

HABITAT

It is a tropical and subtropical plant. It grows on sandy and gravelly soils and can be in waterlogged places. It grows in areas with a rainfall less than 520 mm per year. It can grow in arid places. In Zimbabwe it grows between 400-1,600 m above sea level. In Argentina it grows below 500 m above sea level.

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