PLANT FACT SHEET

Ocimum gratissimum Linn.

GENUS *Ocimum* **FAMILY** Lamiaceae

COMMON NAMES Tea Bush, East Indian Basil

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Spice, Seeds, Flower, Vegetable, Tea

The leaves are eaten raw or cooked. They are used in soups.
They are used for flavouring. They impart a bitter flavour to food.
The leaves are used to flavour tea.
The seeds are sometimes eaten.
The flowers are used raw or cooked as a spice.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It generally has reddish green leaves. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows 0.6-1.8 m high. It has a woody base. The leaves can be smooth or hairy. They are oval and have teeth along the edge. The flowers are green or dull yellow. They are in clusters.

HABITAT

It grows in tropical and temperate places. It can grow in arid places. It suits hardiness zone 10. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The leaves are plucked from the plant.

NOTES

There are between 100 and 150 Ocimum species.

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