



PLANT FACT SHEET

Zinnia elegans Jacq.

GENUS *Zinnia* FAMILY Asteraceae

COMMON NAMES Common Zinnia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

The young leaves and shoots can be eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An annual plant. It grows to 1 m high and spreads to 1 m wide. The stem is erect, branching and brittle. The leaves occur opposite one another and can be oval or long. They are deep green and clasp the stem. The flowers can be of various colours such as white, yellow, red, or orange. They occur singly and are at the end of branches or in the axils of leaves. Flowers can be 12.5 cm across.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It does best in rich, deep, loamy soils. It needs an open sunny position. It is damaged by drought and frost. It suits hardiness zones 9-11.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seeds should be sown 6-12 mm deep. Plants are spaced 30 cm apart.

NOTES

There are 20 *Zinnia* species.

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