PLANT FACT SHEET

Crotalaria spectabilis Roth

GENUS *Crotalaria* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Rattlebox

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flower

The flowers are cooked as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

An annual herb or small shrub. It grows 2 m high. The leaves are 5-15 cm long The flowers are in groups of 20-50 in stalks 25-45 cm long at the ends of branches. The flowers are yellow. The fruit is 2-5 cm long. There are 20-30 seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is best in a light to medium, well-drained soil. It needs an open sunny position. It is resistant to drought and frost. In Argentina it grows below 500 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed. The seed need treatment to break the hard seed coat. It can be grown from cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 550 Crotalaria species. They are mostly tropical.
The plant is poisonous to animals.

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