PLANT FACT SHEET

Wolffia arrhiza (L.) Horkel ex Wimm.

GENUS *Wolffia* **FAMILY** Araceae

COMMON NAMES Least duckweed, Rootless duckweed, Spotless Watermeal

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

It is used for soup.

DESCRIPTION

A water plant. It is like a greenish tinge on the water surface. The vegetative part is less than 1 mm long. It is inflated. It is rounded and with 1 side pocket. It does not have roots. The flower breaks through the tip part of the vegetative body. It does not have a spathe or sheath like structure around it. This is made up of one female flower and one male flower.

HABITAT

A tropical and temperate plant. It grows on the water surface. It can float in rivers. It grows in wetlands.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

They mostly spread by vegetative means. Daughter plants bud from adult plants. This takes about 3 days.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants are harvested at 4 day intervales from ponds enriched with animal manure.

NOTES

There are 11 Wolffia species. Wolffia are very small floating plants. Dried plants are 20% protein and 40% carbohydrate. Also in the family Lemnaceae.

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