PLANT FACT SHEET

Astelia alpina R. Br.

GENUS *Astelia* **FAMILY** Asteliaceae

COMMON NAMES Perching lily, Pineapple grass, Silver astelia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The base of the leaves is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tufted herb. It has stiff leaves which form a rosette giving it an appearance like pineapple. The leaves are long and narrow and have channels along them. They are about 20 cm long by 1-2 cm wide. The leaves are green above and silver underneath. It spreads by rhizomes. The flower are greenish and in spikes at the end of the stalk in the centre of the leaves. The fruit is a bright red round berry. They are about 12 mm long in the heart of the tuft. They contain 5 black shiny seeds. These are edible.

HABITAT

It is a cool temperate alpine plant. It grows in bogs and on the edge of mountain pools. It suits hardiness zones 8-10. Tasmanian Herbarium.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or by division.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants flower in May.

NOTES

There are about 25 Astelia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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