PLANT FACT SHEET

Aciphylla squarrosa J. R. Forst. & G. Forst.

GENUS *Aciphylla* **FAMILY** Apiaceae

COMMON NAMES Speargrass, Bayonet plant

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Gum, Leaves, Root

The root is cooked and eaten.
The resin is chewed as a chewing gum.
The young shoots and stems are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A perennial shrub. It grows 2.5 m high. It spreads to 1.5 m across. Male and female flowers are normally on separate plants but sometimes female plants have occasional male flowers. The leaves are finely divided. They are 45-60 cm long with very narrow segments. The flowers occur in heads on stems 90 cm tall. They are greenish cream.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is found growing naturally in New Zealand from sea-level to mountain areas in the North and South Islands to latitude 41° 30' south. It requires a well drained gritty soil in full sun. It can tolerate frost down to about 10°C. It suits hardiness zones 5-9.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. It is best to use fresh seed as dry seed germinates irregularly.

NOTES

There are about 40 Aciphylla species.

REFERENCES

Char. gen. pl. 136, t. 68. 1776

Crowe, A., 1997, A Field Guide to the Native Edible Plants of New Zealand. Penguin. p 105

Lim, T. K., 2015, Edible Medicinal and Non Medicinal Plants. Volume 9, Modified Stems, Roots, Bulbs. Springer p 2

Plants for a Future database, The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0NG, UK. http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/ab5aa806-beb7-4a0e-ab46-ae8b452d1a66