PLANT FACT SHEET

Allium ampeloprasum L.

GENUS *Allium* **FAMILY** Amaryllidaceae

COMMON NAMES Great round-headed garlic, Giant garlic

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Leaves, Roots, root, Bulbs, Vegetable, Seeds

The bulbs are eaten raw or cooked.
The leaves are eaten raw or cooked. The leaves are used for sarma in Turkey. They are rolled around a filling of rice or minced meat. They are also used in cheese making.
The flowers are used raw or to flavour cooked foods. The seeds are milled and added to foods.
The small bulbs or bulbils can be used for flavouring or pickles.

DESCRIPTION

An onion family plant with a bulb. It grows to 1.2 m high and spreads 10 cm wide. The leaves are flat and shaped like a keel. This is a variable species which includes leeks, great headed garlic and kurrat. The bulbs can be 2-6 cm wide. The flowers are in a round head and are white, purple or red. The flowers are bell shaped and 4-5.5 mm long. The flower heads may have 500 flowers and be 5-9 cm across.

HABITAT

It is a temperate and Mediterranean climate plant. It grows naturally in rocky places near the coast in S.W. England and Wales. It is common around the Mediterranean. It prefers a sunny position in a light well drained soil. It tolerates a pH in the range 5.2 to 8.3. It does not suit moist climates. It suits hardiness zones 6-9. It can tolerate frosts. In Hobart Botanical gardens. Tasmania Herbarium.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or by division of clumps or from bulbils.

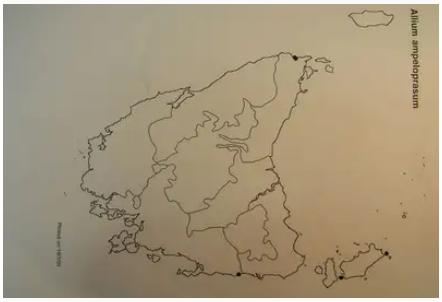
NOTES

Probably the wild ancestor of salad leek and common leek. There are about 300-700 Allium species. Most species of Allium are edible (Flora of China). All alliums are edible but they may not all be worth eating!
They have also been put in the family Alliaceae.

PICTURES

Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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