PLANT FACT SHEET

Avena sterilis L.

GENUS *Avena* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Sterile oats, Wild winter oat

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Cereal

DESCRIPTION

A tall annual grass. It is green or bluish-green. The stems can be single or in groups. The leaves are narrow and about 15 mm wide. They can have some hairs on the edges. The ligule is 4-6 mm long. The flower is a loose panicle. The spikelets droop on slender stalks. The awn is slender and 30-60 mm long and twisted below a distinct elbow. The flowers fall as a unit and the spikelet does not break up.

HABITAT

It is a Mediterranean plant. It grows on cultivated and waste ground. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 800 m above sea level. Tasmanian Herbarium.

NOTES

There are about 25 Avena species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Benitez, G., et al, 2023, Wild Edible Plants of Andalusia: Traditional Uses and Potential of Eating Wild in a Highly Diverse Region. Plants 2023, 12, 1218 p 22

Blamey, M and Grey-Wilson, C., 2005, Wild flowers of the Mediterranean. A & C Black London. p 525

Brouk, B., 1975, Plants Consumed by Man. Academic Press, London. p 26

Holden, J.H.W., 1979, Oats, in Simmonds N.W.,(ed), Crop Plant Evolution. Longmans. London. p 86

Hussey, B.M.J., Keighery, G.J., Cousens, R.D., Dodd, J., Lloyd, S.G., 1997, Western Weeds. A guide to the weeds of Western Australia. Plant Protection Society of Western Australia. p 44

Jardin, C., 1970, List of Foods Used In Africa, FAO Nutrition Information Document Series No 2.p 1

Lamp, C.A., Forbes, S.J. and Cade, J.W., 1990, Grasses of Temperate Australia. Inkata Press. p 90

Lazarides, M. & Hince, B., 1993, Handbook of Economic Plants of Australia, CSIRO. p 29

Paczkowska, G. & Chapman, A.R., 2000, The Western Australian Flora. A Descriptive Catalogue. Western Australian Herbarium. p 98

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

Sp. pl. ed. 2, 1:118. 1762

Tasmanian Herbarium Vascular Plants list p 82

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Zeven, A. C. & de West, J. M. J., 1982, Dictionary of cultivated plants and their regions of diversity. Wageningen. p 108

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/b3b197a1-a61d-4961-841c-fd6cdf20baaa