PLANT FACT SHEET

Oldeania alpina (K. Schum.) Stapleton

GENUS *Oldeania* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Mountain bamboo, African alpine bamboo

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Shoots, Vegetable

The shoots are cooked and used as food.

DESCRIPTION

A bamboo. A very large hollow-stemmed grass. It usually grows 6-8 m tall but can grow 12-25 m tall. The stems are smooth and woody. They are yellow brown. They grow from fattened underground stems (rhizomes). A ring of thin branches grow from the joints at the upper ends. Leaves grow off these small branches. Stems can reach 7-10 cm across. The leaves are pale green and up to 20 cm long by 1 cm wide. Flowers are rarely seen. They are 10-20 cm long. After flowering the plant dies down.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. A bamboo found at high elevations in Uganda. It grows at 2,700-3,000 m altitude. If well watered it will grow at lower altitudes.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from sections of the underground stem. It can be grown from seed. These need regular watering. They can be transplanted out after 8-12 months.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is a fast growing plant under good conditions.

NOTES

There are about 150 Arundinaria species.

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