PLANT FACT SHEET

Cucumis kalahariensis A. Meeuse

GENUS *Cucumis* **FAMILY** Cucurbitaceae

COMMON NAMES Kalahari cucumber

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root, Tuber, Leaves

The roots are baked and eaten.
The raw root is used for water.
The leaves are cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It is a pumpkin family plant. It is a creeper that keeps growing from year to year. The stems can be 3 m long. It has a fleshy taproot. These are 5-20 cm long by 2-3 cm wide. It has a brown skin and spongy inner flesh. Leaves have lobes and teeth around the edge. The leaves are hairy. Plants are separately male and female. The flowers are small and bright yellow. The fruit are small and prickly. They have stripes along them. They are 3-6 cm long by 2-3 cm wide. The seeds are 6-7 mm long by 304 mm wide and 2 mm thick.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is used by the San people in Southern Africa. It needs well-drained soil. It grows in sands and clays. It grows below 1,200 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

NOTES

There are about 25 Cucumis species.

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