PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Fritillaria imperialis L.

GENUS *Fritillaria* **FAMILY** Liliaceae

COMMON NAMES Crown imperial lily, Tears of Mary

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root

CAUTION: Fresh bulbs are poisonous. They contain a toxic alkaloid called imperialine.
The bulbs are eaten after cooking.

DESCRIPTION

A bulb plant. It grows 60-120 cm high and 20-30 cm wide. The leaves are glossy and twisted. They occur in rings or whorls around the stout stem. The flowers are at the top of the stem. They can be 8 nodding flowers. These can be 8 cm long. There is a green tuft at the top. The colour can vary from yellow to reddish-brown.

HABITAT

It is a cool temperate plant. It is frost hardy. It can grow on heavy soils. It is best in full sun. The soils should be well drained. It suits hardiness zones 4-7.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Bulbs are planted about 20 cm deep in well prepared planting holes. Bulbs are spaced about 30 cm apart.

NOTES

There are about 100 Fritillaria species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/b88b6257-65ee-49a8-9035-9fbf02b7ad5e