PLANT FACT SHEET

Gardenia erubescens Stapf et Hutch.

GENUS *Gardenia* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

COMMON NAMES Female gardenia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: fruit, Leaves - spice, Flowers

The ripe fruit are eaten raw. They are also used for sauces and soups.
The leaves are used as a spice.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 1-2 m high. It branches from near the base. It loses its leaves during the year. The bark is pale yellow. Young shoots have a grey covering. The leaves are in rings of 3 at the ends of shoots. They are 12 cm long by 10 cm wide. They vary in shape. The flowers occur singly and are white to yellow. They have a scent. The tube of the flower is 5 cm long. The fruit are 3-5 cm long and oval but slightly bent. They are pale yellow when ripe.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in savannah and savannah woodland. It grows in the Sahel. It can grow in arid places.

NOTES

There are about 200 Gardenia species.

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