PLANT FACT SHEET

Croton gratissimus Burch.

GENUS *Croton* **FAMILY** Euphorbiaceae

COMMON NAMES Lavendar Croton

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Spice

The fruit are eaten raw. They are also used in sauces and for flavouring.
The leaves are eaten as a green vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 6 m tall. It has a pleasant scent. Young stems are hairy. There are scaly hairs underneath the leaves. The leaf blade is dark above and white underneath. Leaves are 4 cm long by 2 cm wide. Male and female flowers are separate on the same plant. There are a few female flowers and more male flowers. The fruit are 7 mm across. They are capsules with 3 lobes. They are covered with scales. They are green and turn yellow.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows on the edge of the forest and in the savannah in West Africa. It grows on dry rocky hillsides. It grows between 5-1,950 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places. It has scales on the leaves that helps it conserve moisture.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruit ripen over 3 months.

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