PLANT FACT SHEET

Cymbopogon martinii (Roxb.) J. F. Watson

GENUS *Cymbopogon* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Rosha grass, Geranium grass, Palmarosa

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - oil, Leaves - tea

The leaves yield an essential oil by steam distillation and it is used to flavour ice cream, gelatin desserts, chewing gum and bakery products.
The leaves are used for tea.

DESCRIPTION

A grass. It forms in tufts and keeps growing from year to year. It has a woody rootstock. It grows 3 m high. The lower nodes are swollen. The leaf blades are narrow and 50 cm long by 1-3 cm wide. They taper to the tip. The flower panicles are 10-30 cm long and reddish.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows on grassy slopes in Sichuan and Yunnan in China. It can grow in poor soil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed sown directly. The seeds are small so are mixed with ash or sand. They can be grown from seed or from slips put in a nursery and transplanted. A spacing of 15-20 cm is suitable. Leaves are cut when 15-20 cm tall.

NOTES

The variety "Sofia" is a tetraploid plant while "Motia" is a diploid plant.

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