PLANT FACT SHEET

Panicum turgidum Forsk.

GENUS *Panicum* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Turgid panic grass

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Cereal, Vegetable

The seeds are eaten fried or mixed with other grains and used in bread making. They are also used for a soup or porridge. It is used in kreb a grain mixture eaten in Chad.

DESCRIPTION

A grass that keeps growing from year to year. It forms dense tangled clumps. It grows 0.3-1 m high. The stems have angular branching. The nodes or joints are swollen. There are empty leaf sheaths at the nodes. The leaves are narrow and with sharp points. The plant can break off at ground level and blow in the wind.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It can grow on clay soils or sand dunes and sandy plains. It grows in the desert. It is drought resistant. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall between 30-250 mm. It can grow in alkaline soils. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

The seeds can be collected from ant hills.

NOTES

There are about 500 Panicum species.

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