PLANT FACT SHEET

Cucumis dipsaceus Ehrenb. ex Spach

GENUS *Cucumis* **FAMILY** Cucurbitaceae

COMMON NAMES Teaselgourd, Arabian cucumber, Hedgehog Gourd

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds, Fruit, Vegetable

The seeds are cooked and eaten.
The leaves and fruit are also eaten. The young leaves are eaten as a vegetable and are also mashed in food.
The leaves are also dried in the sun and then pounded into powder. It is then soaked in hot water, boiled and stirred. It is then eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A pumpkin family herb. It is an annual plant growing each year from seed. It grows 50 cm high and spreads 2 m wide. The stems are slender and trailing. They have prickles. It has tendrils. The leaves are oval to kidney shaped. They can be 10 cm long. The flowers are funnel shaped and yellow. The fruit are hairy oval berries. They are yellow and 3-7 cm long by 3-4 cm wide.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It is best in light, well-drained soil. It needs a protected, sunny position. It is damaged by frost or drought. It grows between 425-1,800 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Leaves are collected during the rainy season. They are dried, pounded and stored in airtight containers.

NOTES

There are about 25 Cucumis species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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