PLANT FACT SHEET

Cucurbita argyrosperma var. callicarpa L. Merrick & D.M. Bates

GENUS *Cucurbita* **FAMILY** Cucurbitaceae

COMMON NAMES Green-stripe cushaw

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Flowers, Young stems, Seeds

The seeds are eaten roasted, toasted or ground. They are used in sauces and stews.

DESCRIPTION

A pumpkin family plant. It is a creeping or climbing plant. It can be hairy. The stems are slightly angular. The leaves are oval or heart shaped and 10-30 cm by 15-40 cm. The leaf stalks are 30 cm long. The leaves have triangular lobes. The male flowers are on stalks 10-20 cm long. The female flowers are on short stalks 2-3.5 cm long. The fruit can be short or long and straight or curved. The fruit re 11-50 cm long. The fruit has a hard skin and green stripes. The flesh is white, yellow or orange. The seeds are 15-30 mm long by 8-16 mm wide. They have a smooth white skin.

HABITAT

A subtropical plant. They grow between sea level and 1800 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Seed are planted at the start of the rainy season.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruit for eating can be ready 3 months after sowing. Seed take 5-7 months.

NOTES

There are 25 Cucurbita species. Seeds are 39% oil and 44% protein.

REFERENCES

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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