PLANT FACT SHEET

Costus afer Ker-Gawl.

GENUS *Costus* **FAMILY** Costaceae

COMMON NAMES Ginger lily, White spiral costus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable, Rhizome - spice, Root, Pith, Stem

The rhizome is occasionally used as a spice or flavouring.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows 3 m tall. It has rhizomes. The stems are erect and slightly woody at the base. They are twisted in a spiral. The leaves are oblong to sword shaped and 25 cm long by 7 cm wide. The base is rounded and they taper to the tip. The leaves are based in spirals. They are smooth above and pale and hairy underneath. The flowers are in a round head up to 7 cm long. The flowers are tube shaped and 5 cm across. The fruit is a round capsule. There are many black shiny seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in woodland, savannah woodland and palm groves. It needs to be in a sunny position. It grows up to 1,200 m above sea level. Cairns BG.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from cuttings and division of the rhizome.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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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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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/c480d19a-da62-4c9d-a40e-7f5d61331eed