PLANT FACT SHEET

Arisaema triphyllum (L.) Schott.

GENUS *Arisaema* **FAMILY** Araceae

COMMON NAMES Jack in the pulpit, Indian turnip

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root, Corm, Fruit

The tubers (corms) are used to produce a very fine flour like arrowroot. They are sliced, dried and stored to reduce the acridity then made into flour. They can be stewed or fried.
Caution: Like all Araceae family the plant contains calcium oxalates.
The fruit have also been boiled with meat. They are also used for jams, jellies or preserves. It needs special processing.

DESCRIPTION

A tuber plant. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows 60-90 cm high. It has round tubers. There can be 1-3 leaves. These have 3 leaflets. The leaflets are pointed and 8-15 cm long. The flowers appear below the leaves. The bract around the flower is green or dark red and it can be striped. It is 10-15 cm long. It is hooded and curves inwards at the edges. The fleshy fruit stalk is club shaped. It can be 7 cm long. The fruit are berries which show up distinctly. The fruit are bright red berries.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows in rich woods, thickets and swamps. It grows in light shade. They can tolerate cold. It suits hardiness zones 4-9.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from corms. These are dormant in the winter. Plants can be grown from fresh seed. These are easy to transplant.

NOTES

There are about 150-170 Arisaema species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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