PLANT FACT SHEET

Nymphaea nouchali var. capensis (Savigny) Verdc.

GENUS *Nymphaea* **FAMILY** Nymphaeaceae

COMMON NAMES Cape Blue Water Lily

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Stalks, Roots, Corm

DESCRIPTION

A waterlily which keeps growing from year to year. It has underground storage organs or tubers which can become stems or rhizomes. The leaves are 30-40 cm across. The edges of the leaves are deeply wavy. The flowers are above the water level. They are 15 cm across. They stand about 30 cm above the water. There are 4 sepals which are green with white or blue tinged edges. The petals are blue or white. The seeds are small and egg shaped. They are 2 mm long. The flowers remain open fro 4-5 days but close at night. As the fruit forms the stalk becomes like a spiral and pulls the fruit under the water.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in shallow water up to 1 m deep. It grows in mud and clays. It needs full sun. It can grow in arid places. It grows in the lowlands. It suits hardiness zones 10-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. They can grow in mud up to 1 m deep. It can also be grown by division of the plant.

NOTES

There are about 50 Nymphaea species.

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