PLANT FACT SHEET

Ipomoea mauritiana Jacq.

GENUS *Ipomoea* **FAMILY** Convolvulaceae

COMMON NAMES Palmate Morning Glory

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Tubers, Root, Leaves

Starch is extracted from the roots.
The tuber is eaten as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A strong climbing plant. Its stems twine around objects or creep over the ground. It grows 4.5 m high and spreads 1.8 m wide. They grow from a root tuber. Plants die down each year and re-grow from the tuber. The young growth is bright green and shiny. The leaves can be 25 cm across and divided like fingers on a hand into 5-9 narrow lobes. These can be 15 cm long by 4 cm wide. Leaves are dark green and are thin in texture. The leaflets are drawn out to a point. Flowers occur in groups of 3-9 in the axils of leaves. Flowers are 6-8 cm across and mauve. They have a darker centre in the trumpet shaped flowers. The seed capsule is 1.5 cm across and round and leathery. The seeds are woolly. The tuber is large. It can occur under ground or near the surface.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant growing in rainforest and coastal shrub. It suits humid locations. It grows throughout the tropics. Plants need a well drained soil and a sunny position. They can only tolerate light frosts. In Africa it grows between 20-2,440 m above sea level. In Zimbabwe it grows up to 1,000 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 9-12. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 500 Ipomoea species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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