PLANT FACT SHEET

Parochetus communis Buch.-Ham. ex. D. Don

GENUS *Parochetus* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Blue trefoil, Clover pea, Shamrock pea

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Roots, Flowers

The roots are boiled and eaten.
The flowers are used as a potherb in stir fries.

DESCRIPTION

A creeping herb. It forms a ground cover. It grows 10 cm high and spreads 30 cm wide. It loses its leaves during the year. The leaflets are closely flattened. They are clover-like and divided into 3 leaflets. The leaves are 12 mm long. They are hairy underneath. The flowers are deep blue and like pea flowers. They are 12-25 mm wide. They occur singly or in pairs. The pods are 2.5 cm long.

HABITAT

A tropical and subtropical plant. It grows naturally in mountains in Africa and Asia. It does best in moist, humus-rich soil. It can grow in sun or part shade. It can only tolerate light frost. In southern China it grows on the edges of woodlands and in grassland between 1,800-3,000 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 9-11. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown by seed or by division of the plant.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It can spread quickly.

NOTES

There is only one Parochetus species.

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