PLANT FACT SHEET

Calypso bulbosa (L.) Oakes

GENUS *Calypso* **FAMILY** Orchidaceae

COMMON NAMES Fairyslipper, Venus's slipper

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root, Bulb, Corms

The corms are boiled and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A small orchid. It is about 20 cm high. It has a single leaf. This can be 3-6 cm long by 2-5 cm wide. It is oval in shape and has a wavy edge. The leaf lies close to the ground. There is an underground storage corm. It is about 1-2 cm across. The flower is single and nodding. It is about 3-4 cm long.

HABITAT

It is a cold temperate plant. It forms dense colonies in damp areas in coniferous forests. They are frost tolerant. It requires cool conditions. It grows in Arctic regions and in the Rocky Mountains. In Canada it grows from sea level to 1,400 m altitude. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown in a mixture of leaf mould and coarse sand. It should be watered during its growing stages.

NOTES

There is only one Capypso species.

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