PLANT FACT SHEET

Astragalus sinicus L.

GENUS *Astragalus* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Chinese milk vetch, Purple cloud petals

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds, Flowers

The young leaves are eaten cooked.

DESCRIPTION

A low herb. It is a plant which has a 2 year life-cyle. It grows to 25 cm high. The leaves have leaflets along the stalk. The flowers are on stalks above the leaves. They are pink.

HABITAT

A warm temperate plant. It grows near paddy fields. It requires a dry well drained soil in a sunny position. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Cold treatment can help seeds germinate. Stored seed should be pre-soaked for 24 hours in warm water before sowing.

NOTES

In soils with high levels of selenium these plants can accumulate toxic levels of selenium. The plants growing in rice fields in China produce a favourite kind of honey. There are 2,000 Astragalus species.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/dbe82ddf-b5f5-4d39-98bf-a31391fb685e