



PLANT FACT SHEET

Piper guineense Schumach & Thonn.

GENUS *Piper* FAMILY Piperaceae

COMMON NAMES Guinea pepper, West African pepper

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Seeds - spice

The fresh or dried fruit is used to flavour soups, rice and other foods. It is like mild pepper.

The leaves are added to soups. The leaves are also cooked and used as a substitute for tea.

Leaves are chewed with betel nut as a substitute for Piper betle.

Ash from the plants is used as a substitute for salt.

DESCRIPTION

A slightly woody creeper. It attaches to the trunks of trees. It grows 10 m long. The fruit occur in clusters. They are 5 mm across. They are orange-red in colour.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in forests, woodland and along rivers.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds or cuttings. Seeds germinate in about 22 days. Plants can be grown from stem cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruit are harvested then dried in the sun. In Tanzania fruit are collected from October to December. In Central African Republic flowers have been observed in May and fruit from December to February.

NOTES

There are between 1000-2000 Piper species. They are mostly in the tropics.

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