PLANT FACT SHEET

Neololeba atra (Lindl.) Widjaja

GENUS *Neololeba* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Cape Bamboo, Long pipe bamboo, New Guinea thin-walled bamboo

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Shoots, Growing tip, Seeds

The young shoots are harvested and cooked and treated like a pitpit.

DESCRIPTION

A bamboo. It grows up to about 5 m tall and has canes about 3 cm across. There are several woody light coloured stems. It forms thick clumps which are hard to penetrate. The leaves are 20-50 cm long by 6-10 cm wide and rounded at the base. The leaves are light green. There are distinct hairs on the leaf sheath where the blade joins the stalk. The leaf sheath completely surrounds the stem. It flowers almost continually and doesn't die after flowering. It flowers regularly but doesn't always produce seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows from sea level up to about 1250 m altitude in Papua New Guinea. Often the plant grows near watercourses that are flooded in wet seasons. It is very sensitive to cold. It can grow on limestone.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is planted from cuttings of the cane. They take a little over a year to become established and produce edible shoots. They also grow wild. To stop clumps spreading the rhizome below the ground level needs to be chopped through. Young plants are not easily transplanted. Rooted shoots near the base can be separated off and replanted.

NOTES

There are about 120 Bambusa species. They are tropical and subtropical in Asia.

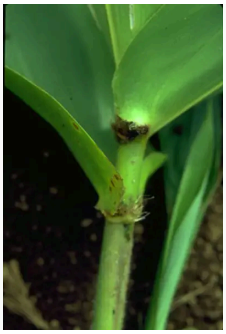
PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/dc2efd19-b009-4db3-be70-f8361d7f67d4