PLANT FACT SHEET

Brassica rapa subsp. chinensis (L.) Kitamura

GENUS *Brassica* **FAMILY** Brassicaceae

COMMON NAMES Bok-choy Celery cabbage

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Stem, Flowers, Vegetable

The leaves are cooked and eaten.
The stems are cooked and served with oyster sauce.

DESCRIPTION

A leafy cabbage grown as an annual. It grows 40-60 cm high. The taproot is not fleshy. The stem is short. The leaves are arranged in spirals. They are simple and broadly oval. They can be 30 cm long by 10 cm wide. The leaves form a rosette. They do not form a head. The leaf stalk is thickened. It forms a half cylinder in cross section and does not have wings. The leaf blade is entire and can have a wavy edge. Flowers are small and yellow with 4 petals. The fruit is a pod 3.5 cm long. The seeds are black and 2 mm long. Several different kinds occur.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. More common in lowland areas but will grow in the highlands. It suits cool seasons but will not tolerate frost. In PNG it grows between sea level and 2,300 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed and often transplanted. A spacing of 40 cm x 40 cm is suitable. Seeds are sown direct. They are sown 1 cm deep. They germinate in about 7 days with soil temperature of 21°C. Plants are thinned to about 20 cm between plants.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The whole plant is harvested after 2-3 months.

NOTES

There are about 30 Brassica species and many cultivated varieties.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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