PLANT FACT SHEET

Megathyrsus maximus (Jacq.) B.K.Simon & S.W.L.Jacobs

GENUS *Megathyrsus* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Guinea grass seed

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Grains, Cereal

The grains are roasted, dried thoroughly, and then pounded. They are then boiled and eaten salted or unsalted, and/or with a relish.

DESCRIPTION

A grass which keeps growing from year to year. It forms tufts. It has short underground stems or rhizomes. It can be 2-3 m tall. The leaf blades are 15-30 cm long. The flower part of the flowering head has side branches in a ring. The flowering head is open and branched. It has a central upright stem. The long thin side branches grow out from this. The flowers are small and oval and 2-3 mm long. They are on small wavy stalks.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It will grow on a range of soils but grows best on fertile soils. It is often on alluvial river flats. It can tolerate shade. It grows between 20-2,100 m above sea level. It grows in hot arid areas. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall between 300-1,500 mm. It can grow in arid places.

NOTES

There are about 500 Panicum species. It is a good fodder grass.

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