PLANT FACT SHEET

Ipomoea graminea R. Br.

GENUS *Ipomoea* **FAMILY** Convolvulaceae

COMMON NAMES Grass leafed convolvulus, Bush potato

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Roots, Tuber

The tuber is cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A climbing or trailing plant. It has wiry stems which twine around objects. It has a woody rootstock and re-grows from this each year. The young growth is shiny. The leaves are long and narrow. They are 10-20 cm long by 0.3-0.5 cm wide. The leaf stalks are 1 cm long. The leaves can be light or dark green and can spread out or curve backwards. The veins in the leaf run along the length of the leaf. The flowers are about 5 cm across. The flowers are white and occur alone at the tops of stems in the axils of leaves. The flowers are flimsy and have a tubular base. They open at night and die next morning. The seed capsule is about 1.5 cm across. It is round and smooth. There are 4 seeds which are grey and hairy. The tubers can vary in shape from long to round.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. Plants grow in the wet season and die back during the dry season. It needs well drained soil. It can grow in full sun or part shade. It grow in open forest and among grasses. It climbs over other plants.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed and will probably also grow from cuttings or tubers.

NOTES

There are about 500 Ipomoea species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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