PLANT FACT SHEET

Dracontium polyphyllum L.

GENUS *Dracontium* **FAMILY** Araceae

COMMON NAMES Motley-stalked dragon-plant

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Tuber, Root, Corm

The tubers are cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A taro family herb. It is like Amorphophallus. The tubers are round and 6-10 cm wide by 5-8 cm thick. They are flat on top and rounded underneath. There are a few small tubers. The tuber produces a single leaf. The leaf stalks are 1-2 m long and 2-4 cm across. They are dark green or mottled. The leaf blades spreads horizontally and can be 1 m across. The leaves are divided. There is usually one flowering shoot. There are 150-300 flowers arranged in a spiral on one stalk. There is a spathe 6-12 cm long by 3-5 cm wide. The collection of fruits are 5-16 cm long and 3-4 cm wide. The berries have 3 seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in moist forests. It grows up to 220 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or by division of the tuber.

NOTES

There are 23 Dracontium species.

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