PLANT FACT SHEET

Hoodia gordonii (Masson) Sweet ex Decne.

GENUS *Hoodia* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

COMMON NAMES Queen of the Namib, African hats

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Stems, Pods, Vegetable

The stems are chewed to reduce the desire for food. They are eaten fresh as a food. They have a bitter taste.

DESCRIPTION

A succulent herb or shrub. It grows about 80 cm high. The stems are 305 cm thick. The flowers are star shaped or bell shaped. They are 1-17 cm across. They are dull brown colour and have a bad smell like rotten meat. This attracts flies to pollinate the plant.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in deserts in Botswana. It grows in sands. They need high temperatures, high light and low moisture. It cannot tolerate frost. In southern Africa it grows between 250-1,200 m altitude. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seed. They can also be grown by cuttings.

NOTES

There are 13 Hoodia species. It is used in medicine as an appetite suppressant. It is being developed by a pharmaceutical company.

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