PLANT FACT SHEET

Poisonous

This plant, or parts of it, can be poisonous. Do not eat it unless you know which parts are safe and how they must be prepared.

Euphorbia pulcherrima Willd. ex Klotzch

GENUS *Euphorbia* **FAMILY** Euphorbiaceae

COMMON NAMES Scarlet Poinsettia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - flavouring, Vegetable

Caution: All Euphorbias or spurges have irritating sap and many have chemicals that can cause cancer.
The leaves have been eaten as a flavouring. The flowering shoots are also eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows about 3.5 m high. The trunk is woody and brown. The branches are angular. The leaves are large. They are oval to sword shaped and have 12 teeth on either side. They are 20 cm long. They taper to the tip. There can be lobes along the edge. It usually drops its leaves as flowering begins. The bracts are large and red. This gives the flower cluster the appearance of one large flower. The bracts can also be white or yellow. The flowers are small and greenish yellow. The fruit is a small capsule with 3 lobes.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is damaged by frost. It suits subtropical regions. It suits hardiness zones 9-11. In XTBG Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or cuttings. It can be used for living fences or hedges.

NOTES

There are about 2000 Euphorbia species. Most Euphorbias have sap which irritates the skin.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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