PLANT FACT SHEET

Piper rothianum F.M. Bailey

GENUS *Piper* **FAMILY** Piperaceae

COMMON NAMES Australian native pepper

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

A vine which climbs by attaching roots. It grows 10-15 m high. The side branches hang down. The leaves are simple and 7-13 cm long by 5-9 cm wide. They are smooth and dark green. The leaves are broadly oval. The leaves when crushed smell of citrus. The flowering spikes are 10 cm long. The flowers are very small and cream. The fruit is up to 8-12 cm long by 0.6-0.8 cm wide. They are produced in the axils of leaves and at the ends of branches. They are dull red. There are several very small seeds. The fruit is edible.

HABITAT

It is tropical. They grow naturally in the rainforest of NE Queensland. It occurs in dense, low to mid altitude rainforest.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or from cuttings of the young growth.

NOTES

There are between 1000-2000 Piper species. They are mostly in the tropics.

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