PLANT FACT SHEET

Isatis tinctoria L.

GENUS *Isatis* **FAMILY** Brassicaceae

COMMON NAMES Woad, Dyer's woad, Guado, Isatan

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Flowers

The flowers are cooked.
The leaves are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A cabbage family herb up to about 1 m tall. It can spread 30-60 cm wide. The stems are branching. It keeps growing from year to year. The leaves are sword shaped. They have teeth along the edge. The flowers are in panicles at the ends of branches. They are small and yellow and have 4 petals. The fruit are flat seed pods. They are shiny and purple-black when mature.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows in fields, pastures, roadsides, waste places between 600–2800 m altitude in China. It suits hardiness zones 6-8. Hobart Botanical Gardens. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

NOTES

It is used in medicine

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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