PLANT FACT SHEET

Heteropogon triticeus (R. Br.) Stapf ex Craib

GENUS *Heteropogon* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Bush Sugarcane, Giant spear grass, Wheat Spear Grass

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Stems

The stems are broken into pieces and chewed for the sweet juice.

DESCRIPTION

A large grass. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows 2-3 m high. It forms loose tussocks. The stems are 2-3 m tall. The leaves are 5-12 cm long by 0.3-0.4 cm wide. The flower spikes are 5-15 cm long. The male spikelets are 1-2 cm long and the female spikelets are 0.6-0.8 cm long.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows naturally in open forest and woodlands. It requires sun and well drained soil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or by division of the clump.

NOTES

There are about 12 Heteropogon species.

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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