



PLANT FACT SHEET

Trichosanthes dioica Roxb.

GENUS *Trichosanthes* **FAMILY** Cucurbitaceae

COMMON NAMES Pointed gourd, Wild snake gourd

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit, Vegetable

The young fruit are cooked as a vegetable. They are used in curries. They are also fried, pickled and used in stews.

They are also used in confectionary and pickled.

The leaves are eaten as a vegetable. They are used in soups and stews.

DESCRIPTION

A pumpkin family plant. It is a climber. It is a herb. The stems are slender and angled. They have soft hairs. The tendrils are divided 2-4 times. The leaves have stalks. The leaves are 5-10 cm long. They are oval or heart shaped. There are teeth along the edge. Leaves are rigid and rough on both surfaces. Flowers are of one sex and white. The fruit are oblong or pointed on both sides. They are orange-red when ripe. They are 10 cm long and 5 cm wide. Seeds are slightly compressed.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in tropical India. It suits a warm humid climate. It is common in NE India. In Nepal it grows to 600 m altitude. The soil needs to be well drained.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. It is often grown by stem cuttings. Pieces 60 cm long are taken from male and female plants. They are planted out of the nursery after 90 days.

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