PLANT FACT SHEET

Babiana fragrans (Jacq.) Steud.

GENUS *Babiana* **FAMILY** Iridaceae

COMMON NAMES Baboon root, Baboon flower

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Corm, Bulb, Root

The roots are eaten after boiling.

DESCRIPTION

A small herb that keeps growing from year to year. It has a corm. It grows 20 cm high and spreads 15 cm wide. The stem is erect. The leaves are stiff and sword shaped. They are hairy and ribbed. The flowers are funnel shaped and have 6 petals. They can be lilac to red.

HABITAT

It is a temperate to subtropical plant. It grows in light to medium well drained soils. It does best in an open sunny position. It is frost tender and sensitive to drought.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown by division.

NOTES

There are about 60-80 Babiana species. Most are in South Africa.

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