PLANT FACT SHEET

Dianella longifolia R. Br.

GENUS *Dianella* **FAMILY** Asphodelaceae

COMMON NAMES Pale flaxlily, Smooth Flax-lily

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Rhizomes, Root

The ripe fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tufted herb. It keeps growing from year to year. It spreads by rhizomes. It forms clumps. The roots are tuberous and there is an underground rhizome. It grows 30-80 cm high and 50-150 cm wide. The leaves are long and strap like. They are 50-80 cm long by 0.5-1.5 cm wide. They have a long sheathing base. The upper surface in shiny and has slight ridges. The flowers are in a loose panicle. They are on long stalks 80-120 cm long. They have 6 petals. One ring is blue and one white. The stamens are all yellow/orange. The fruit is a blue/purple shiny berry. These are dark blue and 0.8-1.5 cm long. The seed are black.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It suits dry sunny locations. It will grow under trees. It grows in moist grassland and open forest. It grows in temperate to subtropical regions. It can grow in semiarid places. It needs well drained soil. It can stand light frosts. It grows in the midlands of Tasmania. In Hobart Botanical gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seed or division.

NOTES

There are about 20-30 Dianella species. Also put in the family Hemerocallidaceae.

PICTURES

Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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