

BIOTECHNOLOGY

MEDICINAL PLANTS UNDER THREAT



THESE PLANTS ARE UNDER THREAT FROM OVERUSE.

SIPHONOCILLIS AETHIOPICUS **WILD GINGER**

WILD GINGER IS USED BY TRADITIONAL HEALERS TO TREAT ASTHMA, HYSTERIA, COLDS, COUGHS AND FLU.

THERE ARE VERY FEW WILD GINGER LEFT IN THE WILD. IT IS THOUGHT TO BE **EXTINCT** IN KWAZULU NATAL! THE PLANTS WERE USED UP **FASTER** THAN NEW ONES COULD GROW.



DRAWING: SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE

HYPOXIS HEMEROCALLIDEA POPULARLY KNOWN AS **AFRICAN POTATO**

THE AFRICAN POTATO CONTAINS SUBSTANCES THAT HELP OUR BODIES FIGHT DISEASE.

TRADITIONAL HEALERS MAKE A DRINK TO STRENGTHEN SICK CHILDREN. IT CAN HELP PEOPLE WITH PROSTATE PROBLEMS, AND THE JUICE FROM THE ROOT IS USED TO TREAT BURNS.



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TISSUE CULTURE

