PLANT FACT SHEET

Opuntia engelmannii var. lindheimeri (Engelm.) B.D.Parfitt & Pinkava

GENUS *Opuntia* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Cow's tongue

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are made into syrup or jelly.
The plant has the thorns burned off and then it is roasted in damp sand and eaten with chili.

DESCRIPTION

A shrubby, tree like cactus. It grows 2-4 m high. The amount of spininess can vary. It usually has a trunk. It has bluish-green stem joints. These have fleshy leaves. These produce 1-6 spines in groups. The one in the centre is the biggest. The flower vary from yellow to red. The fruit are pear shaped and 3 cm across by 6 cm long. The fruit ripen to dark purple.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. Some kinds can tolerate temperatures down to -12°C. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 250 Opuntia species.

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

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/2c4d28d9-e856-472a-8a42-d7dc57029ca8