PLANT FACT SHEET

Opuntia tomentosa Salm-Dyck

GENUS *Opuntia* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Velvet prickly pear

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw or made into jams and jellies.
A chutney is made by mixing the fruit with raisins, apples, onions, lemon peel, dates, sugar, vinegar and spices.

DESCRIPTION

A cactus. It is a small tree up to 4.5 m high. The stem segments are flattened and covered with soft velvety hair. They are 15-32 cm long and 12-16 cm wide. It can have a few spines or be spineless. The flowers are orange and have red stripes. They are 4-5.5 cm long. The fruit are oval and red. They are 3.4-5.2 cm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in deep soils where water is available. It suits hardiness zones 9-12.

NOTES

There are about 250 Opuntia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/33c5d773-d13c-4a76-83b8-a9e242a00a89