PLANT FACT SHEET

Peniocereus greggii (Engelm.) Britton & Rose

GENUS *Peniocereus* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Sweet potato cactus, Night-blooming cereus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Root, Stalks

The root or tuber is baked, peeled and eaten. They are dipped in batter and made into fritters. The tubers can be cut into small strips, soaked in cold water for 30 minutes then drained and dried and deep fried.
The fruit are eaten raw, cooked or made into jam.
The stalks are eaten as greens.

DESCRIPTION

A cactus. It has slender shoots up to 3 m long. It spreads 50 cm wide. The shoots tend to become woody. They have large turnip like roots. These can be 60 cm across and weigh 60 kg. Flowers open at night. They are white. They are 15-20 cm across. The fruit are red oval seed pods. They are edible.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate to subtropical plant. It suits hardiness zones 8-11. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or from cuttings dried out for a week or two.

NOTES

There are 10-18 Peniocereus species.

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