PLANT FACT SHEET

Melocactus intortus (P. Miller) Urban

GENUS *Melocactus* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Melon cactus, Turk's cap cactus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The small fruit are eaten raw.
The juice of the plant is used to quench thirst.

DESCRIPTION

A cactus. The plants are round or long. They are pale green and 1 m tall. They are 15-40 cm across. There are 14-17 ribs. They are broad and large. There are 9-21 spines grouped together. They are stout and yellow and 20-70 mm long. The flowers are pink and 15-20 mm long by 12-15 mm wide. The fruit are small and pinkish. They are club shaped and 20-25 mm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant.

NOTES

There are 33-35 Melocactus species. They grow in the tropics. Many have fruit which are edible.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/46cfd671-ae56-43b0-b197-695d402488c9