PLANT FACT SHEET

Echinocereus reichenbachii (Engelm. & A. Gray)

GENUS *Echinocereus* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Black lace cactus, Classen's cactus, Fitch's hedgehog cactus, Lace cactus, Merry widow cactus, Purple candle cactus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Stem

The fleshy part of the stem is eaten as a vegetable after removing the spines.

DESCRIPTION

A cactus. The plants can occur singly or with 12 or more stems. They are covered with spines. The stems can be cylinder shaped or fattened. They taper towards the tips. They are 40 cm long and 10 cm wide. There can be up to 7 central spines and 12-36 radial spines. The flowers are near the tips of the stems. They are funnel shaped and pink or red. The flowers are 5-12 cm long and 12 cm across. The fruit are 2-3 cm long. The fruit are purple.

HABITAT

It grows in Texas in the centre and panhandle.

NOTES

There are 60 Echinocereus species. They mostly grow in Mexico and the USA.

REFERENCES

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Cacteen-Verzeichniss 20. 1859 "reichenbachianus"

Hedrick, U.P., 1919, (Ed.), Sturtevant's edible plants of the world. p 180 (As Echinocereus caespitosus)

Loughmiller, C & L., 1985, Texas Wildflowers. A Field Guide. University of Texas, Austin. p 25

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/4fa498d5-6e0e-4514-b9b8-160450f7aefb