PLANT FACT SHEET

Opuntia stricta (Haw.) Haw.

GENUS *Opuntia* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Common Prickly pear

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Stems

The ripe fruit are eaten raw.
The green pads are eaten like a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A cactus. It grows 1 m tall. The stems are fleshy with leaf-like joints. These have small scarred leaves on their surface. The joints are 8-15 cm long. It is covered with single or double yellow spines. These can be 2.5 cm long. The flowers are yellow and 60-70 mm long. Flowers have several sepals, petals and stamens. (Opuntia inermis is smaller and usually without spines.) The fruit are red and 4-6 cm long.

HABITAT

A tropical and subtropical plant. It suits hardiness zones 9-12.

NOTES

It has become an aggressive weed in many areas of Australia and is declared noxious. There are about 250 Opuntia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/7eb4c383-36f8-4e7b-82e1-c5f8cf15e4db