PLANT FACT SHEET

Cylindropuntia imbricata (Haw.) F. M. Knuth

GENUS *Cylindropuntia* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Tree chola

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Seeds, Stem, bud

The gum is used as a chewing gum.
The unopened flower buds are boiled or steamed and added to stews, salads or potato salads. They are less stciky when dried.
The fruit is eaten raw or cooked. They are boiled and eaten with sweetened cornmeal. They are sour.

DESCRIPTION

A cactus which branches. It grows 3 m high. The joints are 7-20 cm long by 3-4 cm wide. The joints are like cylinders rather than flattened. It has lumps and large yellow spine spots. There are 10-30 spines together which are 1-2.5 cm long. The flowers can be purple, red or yellow. They are 4-8 cm across.

HABITAT

It is a temperate to tropical plant. It needs full sunlight. It needs a temperature above 10°C. Adelaide Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 7-12. It can grow in arid places.

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/81305c62-84eb-490c-8a5c-2606d3978634