PLANT FACT SHEET

Opuntia polyacantha var. erinacea (Engelm. & J. M. Bigelow)

B. D. Parfitt

GENUS *Opuntia* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Mojave prickly pear, Grizzly bear prickly pear

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, stem, Seeds

The fruit are eaten raw. They are also cooked, the thorns removed and then served with cornmeal boiled as bread.
The joints are boiled and have the thorns removed and are then dipped in syrup and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A cactus which forms clumps. It has joints which are bluish-green and oblong. They are 5-15 cm long by 4-6 cm wide. The spine spots are close and have bristles and spines. The spines can be 5 cm long. It flowers during the day. The flowers are about 6 cm across. They are usually red.

HABITAT

It needs a sunny site. It needs a temperature above 7°C.

NOTES

There are about 250 Opuntia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/8216d7fe-d72f-448a-800d-f77ec980c52f