PLANT FACT SHEET

Opuntia macrorhiza Engelm.

GENUS *Opuntia* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Twisted spine prickly pear

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Seeds

The fruit are eaten raw and also dried and boiled.

DESCRIPTION

A low spreading cactus. It forms low clumps 13 cm high and 2 m wide. It has fleshy or woody roots. The stem segments are round and blue-green. They are 5-10 cm long by 5-6 cm wide. There are 1-6 spines per group. They are often bent backwards and are 3.8-5.6 cm long. The flowers are yellow and may be tinged with red. They are 5-6 cm long and 5-6 cm wide. The fruit are oval and purple or red. They are 2.5-4 cm long and 2.5-3 cm wide.

HABITAT

It grows in dry prairie. It grows on sand, gravel or rocky soils. It grows between 600-2,300 m altitude in California.

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/82bdb030-d967-41db-b6b7-7a06ead25d0a