PLANT FACT SHEET

Echinocactus polycephalus Engelm. & Bigelow

GENUS *Echinocactus* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Cotton top cactus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flesh

DESCRIPTION

A round cactus. Sometimes it is longer and 40-70 cm high. It can be 18-25 cm wide. It starts out single but then forms clumps. There are 13-21 ribs with whitish grey spine spots 3 cm apart. The spines are reddish-brown and have 4-8 somewhat flat spines which radiate out. They are 5 cm long. In the centre of these there are 4 spines 4-9 cm long. It flowers in the daytime. The flowers are yellow. They are 5-6 cm long.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. They grow in the Sonoran desert. They need full sunlight. It needs a temperature above 10°C. It can grow in arid places. It suits hardiness zones 9-11.

NOTES

There are about 10 Echinocactus species.

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