PLANT FACT SHEET

Pereskia grandifolia Haw.

GENUS *Pereskia* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Rose-cactus, Wax rose

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit

The leaves are eaten as a vegetable.
The fruit are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A cactus. It is an evergreen shrub. It grows 2-5 m tall. The stems are erect or arch over. The trunks are 20 cm across and rough. The leaves vary in size. They can be oval or sword shaped. They are 9-23 cm long by 4-6 cm wide. The leaf stalks are 5-12 mm long. There can be groups of 0-8 spines on the twigs. These are 1-4 cm long. There can be groups of 25-90 spines on the older branches and trunks. These are 2-6.5 cm long. The flowers are in groups of 10-15 on the side and ends of branches. They are pink or purple and 3-5 cm across. The fruit are in clusters and are 5-10 cm long by 3-7 cm wide. They are pear shaped. They are yellow at maturity. They have leaf like bracts attached.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It needs regular moisture. It needs a coarse, sandy, well-drained soil. It does best in full sun. It grows in coastal locations. It needs several hours of sunshine to flower. It suits plant hardiness zones 9-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds and cuttings.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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