PLANT FACT SHEET

Opuntia monacantha (Willd.) Haworth

GENUS *Opuntia* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Drooping prickly pear

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Stems, Flowers, stem

The ripe fruit are eaten fresh. They are also stewed or used in preserves.
The stems are used as a vegetable.
The flowers are cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A cactus. It is a spiny leafless shrub. It grows 1-3 m tall. It is treelike with several branches. The stems are succulent. There are oblong jointed segments. These are covered with needle-like spines. They are shiny green. They are about 10-30 cm long. The flowers occur singly at the base of the spines near the end of the plant. The flowers are golden yellow. The stamen filaments are green. The fruit are reddish-purple. They are pear shaped and 7 cm long.

HABITAT

It is a tropical and subtropical plant. It is native to Brazil. In Nepal it grows to about 1400 m altitude. It grows in open, dry places. It can grow in arid places. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or cuttings. Plants are grown by splitting the jointed stems.

NOTES

There are about 250 Opuntia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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