PLANT FACT SHEET

Cleistocactus smaragdiflorus (Weber) Speg.

GENUS *Cleistocactus* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Firecracker cactus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

An upright cactus. It has stiff columns. It grows about 2 m high. It later lies over. The stems are 4-6 cm thick. The spines are yellowish brown and closely arranged. The columns have 12-16 ribs. The upper spines are 3 cm long. The flowers are narrow and like tubes. They are red with green tips. They are 5 cm long. The fruit are round.

HABITAT

A subtropical plant. It grows in dry and arid areas. It grows up to 2,700 m above sea level. It needs full sun. It needs a temperature above 13°C.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

They are probably pollinated by hummingbirds. They can normally be grown from seed or cuttings.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/e2635272-c641-4f03-bb4c-d2752fa37d1b