PLANT FACT SHEET

Cereus jamacaru DC.

GENUS *Cereus* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Honey cactus, Jamacaru

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Stems

The fruit can be eaten raw.
The stems can be used as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A columnar cactus. It grows 4-12 m tall. The trunk is short. The stems have 8 wings. There are spines in groups along these. The groups are 2-4 cm apart and there are 1-4 central spines and 7-12 spines around these. The flowers occur singly and open at night. The fruit are large and bright red. The pulp is white.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows naturally in east and northeast Brazil. It grows in semi-arid regions and savannah. It is best in light, sandy well-drained soil. It needs an open sunny position. It is resistant to drought and frost. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown by cuttings. It can also be grown from seed. The seeds are separated from ripe fruit by washing. They need to be planted fresh. Seeds germinate in 40-60 days. It can be used as a hedge.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows quickly.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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