



PLANT FACT SHEET

Pachycereus pecten-aboriginum (Engelm.) Britton & Rose

GENUS *Pachycereus* FAMILY Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Hairbrush cactus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The seeds are ground into a meal and used for making cakes.

The fruit are also eaten. They can also be used for jam.

DESCRIPTION

A branched cactus. It forms columns and is deep-green. It grows about 8 m high and 30 cm across. There are 10-12 rounded ribs. The spine spots are large and grey white. They are close together and have 8-9 brown spines which radiate. There are one or two spines in the centre. The flowers are about 8.5 cm long. They are white but reddish on the outside. The fruit are dry and 6-7.5 cm across. They are covered with yellow wool and bristles.

HABITAT

It is a tropical and subtropical plant. It needs full sun. It needs a temperature above 10°C. It suits hardiness zones 9-11. It can grow in arid places.

NOTES

There are 9 *Pachycereus* species. They occur naturally in Mexico.

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