PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Opuntia austrina Small

GENUS *Opuntia* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Southern prickly pear

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Stem

The fruit are eaten raw.
The young stems are cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A cactus. It is spiny and evergreen and succulent. It has a central trunk. It grows 20-120 cm tall. It has short sharp spines. The fruit are barrel shaped and yellow-green, or dark purple. They are 3-5 cm long.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It suits arid climates.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds.
It can also be grown by cuttings of the leaf pads.

REFERENCES

Ferns, Useful Temperate Plants.

Morton, J., 1961, Plants for survival in South Florida. Florida State Horticultural Society. p 331

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/fa48b581-d36d-440b-8e4f-472d7572b75e