

Opuntia ficus-indica

(Indian-fig Opuntia, Pricklypear,)

Prickly pear is a cactus bearing beautiful yellow or orange flower and and edible fruit by mid summer time. The plant grows as a large shrub on a woody trunk. The leaf is transformed into spines and stem into cladodes which are flattened green branches. Also the fruit is covered by spines all over. It is very easy to grow this plant anywhere as it can tolerate heat, drought, cold and salt. In some country even the young stems are eaten as salads.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Figuier de Barbarie

Arabic Name: تين شوكي

Plant Type: Cactus / Succulent

Origin: Mexico

Heat Zones: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

Hardiness Zones: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

Uses: Hedge, Border Plant, Container, Edible, Wildlife

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Moderate

Tree Shape: Upright

Canopy Symmetry: Irregular

Canopy Density: Open

Canopy Texture: Coarse

Height at Maturity: 3 to 5 m

Spread at Maturity: 3 to 5 meters

Time to Ultimate Height: 10 to 20 Years

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Scent:

Flower

Flower Showiness: True
Flower Size Range: 10 - 20
Flower Type: Solitary
Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)
Flower Scent: No Fragrance
Flower Color: White
Seasons: Spring

Fruit

Fruit Type: Berry
Fruit Showiness: True
Fruit Size Range: 7 - 10
Fruit Colors: Yellow, Purple
Seasons: Spring

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Good

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline

Water Requirements: Low

Light Requirements: Full

Management

Toxity: No

Invasive Potential: No

Pruning Requirement: No pruning at all

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Surface Rooting: Yes

Life Span: 25-50 years

Edible Parts: Fruit

Plant Propagations: Cutting

MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Bark Image



Other Image