

drooping prickly pear

Opuntia vulgaris Also known as: **prickly pear, tuna** *Opuntia ficus-indica*

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This description is for **drooping prickly pear** (*Opuntia vulgaris*):

A popular cactus species, *Opuntia vulgaris* is also known by the synonym, *Opuntia ficus-indica*. It grows in flat, pear-shaped segments with long black spines growing from their surfaces, thus earning it the common name, the prickly pear. It flowers in early summer, with small yellow, red or white blossoms blooming from small, pineapple-like pods on its edges. These flowers eventually give way to purple edible succulent fruit, which are sweet to taste and usually ripe in late autumn. The prickly pear thrives in well-drained soil, in full sun but can be potted in cactus compost and grown under glass too. Water moderately when growing, and rarely in winter. Pruning is not required.



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Plant	Environment	Usage
Known dangers? yes	Acidity Acidic Neutral Alkaline	Standard category Cacti & succulents Cacti
Dangers: comments Avoid contact with the skin, as the bristles cause severe skin irritation and are difficult to remove.	Hardiness zone Z11-12	Grown for Edible fruit
Height [m] 5	Heat zone H12-9	Garden type Indoor or winter garden
Spread [m] 5	Winter temperatures [°C] 4 - 0	Gardening expertise beginner

Plant	Environment	Usage
Dominant flower colour Yellow	Heat days 120 - 210	Time to reach full size up to 10 years
Flower Fragrance No, neutral please	Moisture well-drained	
Flowering seasons Late spring Early summer Mid summer Late summer	Soil type sandy	
Foliage in spring Grey-green	Sun requirements Full sun	
Foliage in summer Grey-green	Exposure Sheltered	
Foliage in Autumn Grey-green		
Foliage in winter Grey-green		
Propagation methods seed stem tip cuttings		
Growth habit Bushy		