

COMMON NAME:
PURPLE PRICKLY PEAR

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
OPUNTIA VIOLACEA

ALSO CALLED: BLUE-BLADE AND DOLLAR CACTUS

FLOWER COLOR: YELLOW

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT: ON EDGES OF UPPER PADS USUALLY

FLOWERING TIME: MARCH TO APRIL

LEAVES: NO LEAVES BUT PADS

NORMAL SIZE: 3' TO 6'

EDIBLE: EDIBLE PEARS AFTER REMOVING THE THORNS

NORMAL ELEVATION: 2000' THAN 5000'

ABUNDANCE: RARE, BUT OFTEN USED AS AN ORNAMENTAL IN THE CITIES.

NOTABLE DETAILS: IT HAS PADS LIKE OTHER PRICKLY PEARS, BUT WITH ONLY A FEW LONG THORNS AND MOSTLY CLUMPS OF VERY SHORT FUZZY THORNS WITH A PURPLISH TINGE TO FULL PURPLE COLOR.

SPECIAL INTEREST: THE COLOR OF PADS IS QUITE DISTINCTIVE, AND THEREFORE OFTEN USED AS AN ORNAMENTAL FOR YARD LANDSCAPING.