

COMMON NAME:

PRICKLY PEAR

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

OPUNTIA ENGELMANII

ALSO CALLED: PHAEACANTHA, ENGELMANN'S PRICKLY PEAR, AND PURPLE FRUIT PRICKLY PEAR

FLOWER COLOR: YELLOW

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT: ON UPPER EDGES OF PADS

FLOWERING TIME: APRIL TO JUNE

OBSERVABLE FRUIT: LARGE PURPLE FRUIT CALLED PEARS

NORMAL SIZE: 3' TO 4'

EDIBLE: FRUIT IS GOOD AND TASTY AND IN ABUNDANT YEARS OF RAIN IS GATHERED FOR JELLY

NORMAL ELEVATION: 1500' TO 6000'

HABITATION: COMMON ON SLIGHT HILLSIDES AND FLAT ROCKY AREAS

ABUNDANCE: COMMON

NOTABLE DETAILS: THREE TO FOUR THORNS SURROUNDED BY BUNDLES OF SHORT THORNS IN SPOTS ON THE PADS WITH YELLOW FLOWERS, THOUGH MAY HAVE ORANGE OR REDDISH FLOWERS BUT IS RARE

SPECIAL INTEREST: FRUIT TASTES GREAT BUT GETTING THE THORNS OFF THE FRUIT IS VERY HARD