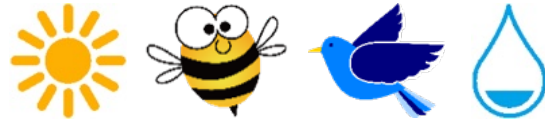


Opuntia polyacantha

Plains Prickly Pear



Plant type:	Perennial cactus/succulent
Height: 4-12"	Spread: 6-9'
Season of Interest:	Summer
Water needs:	Low
Native Region:	CO, AZ, KS, NE, NM, OK, TX, UT, WY
Elevation:	up to 9,200'
Important to know:	Highly variable species with three varieties: hystricina, trichophora and polyacantha



Maintenance:	Low
Garden uses:	Beds & Borders
Habitat:	Dry open places

Ease of Propagation: Easy

Propagation: Propagated from woody stem cuttings or seed. Opuntias germinate more effectively the 2nd year after harvest. Soak/ferment the fruit for several days to soften the flesh around the seeds. The chemical action of bacteria, yeasts or other microorganisms breaks down the soft flesh. Do not change the water, let it roil. Eventually you can lift and discard the skin with glochids. Again, use tongs. Rub the remaining seeds and pulp on a sieve under running water to separate the seeds which are about half a cm. in size. Dry the seeds on a paper towel in a warm place for a week or two until completely dry. Store dry at 40°F.

