

Opuntia spp.



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Erect Prickly-pear Cactus

Cactaceae

Also known as *Opuntia humifusa*, *Opuntia stricta*, *O. mesacantha*, *O. austrina*

Plant Specifics

Size: 2-3 (rarely 5) ft tall by 1-4 ft wide

Life Span: Long-lived perennial

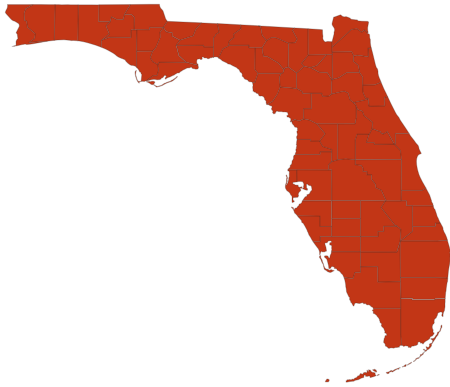
Flower Color: Yellow

Fruit Color: Red

Phenology: Evergreen

Habitats: Coastal dunes, coastal grasslands.

Natural Range in Florida



USDA Zones

Suitable to grow in:

10A 10B 11 8A 8B 9A 9B

Landscaping

Recommended Uses: Makes an interesting wildflower. Can be used as a low-growing hedge in hot, dry locations

Light: ☀ Full Sun

Moisture Tolerance: Not wet but not extremely dry ----- to ----- Very long very dry periods

Salt Water Flooding Tolerance: Tolerant of occasional/brief inundation such as can occur in storm surges.

Salt Spray Tolerance: Moderate. Tolerant of salty wind and may get some salt spray. Exposure to salt spray would be uncommon (major storms).

Soil/Substrate: Sand



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Wildlife



Nectar plant for Meske's skipper (*Hesperia meskei*) butte

Attracts a variety of insect pollinators.

Bees documented visiting *Opuntia humifusa* include *Agapostemon splendens*, *Augochlorella aurata*, *Augochloropsis sumptuosa*, *Dialictus nymphalis*, *D. tegul.* *Halictus ligatus*, *Dianthidium floriense*, *Lithurgus gibbos* *Megachile brevis pseudobrevis*, *M. polycaris*, *M. texana*, *Melissodes communis*, *Apis mellifera*, *Bombus impatiens*, *pennsylvanicus* and *Xylocopa virginica krombeini* (Deyruç al. 2002).