

# Spineless Prickly Pear Cactus



Big 4" glowing yellow flowers in summer – and yummy, no hurt-em-hands red spineless pears soon after – well drained soil is a must in winter.

## *Opuntia coccinifera*

- **Use:** The prickly pear plant has three different edible sections: the pad of the cactus (nopal), which can be treated like a vegetable, the petals of the flowers, which can be added to salads, and the pear (tuna), which can be treated like a fruit.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Full sun. Allow soil to dry out in between waterings. Use slow release fertilizer for best results. Well-drained, sandy winter soils are vital for best performance.
- **Growth:** *Moderate to slow growing to 3 ft. tall, 4-6 ft. wide.*
- **Hardiness:** Zone 7-10, Perennial or likely colder
- **Foliage:** Evergreen; white markings on its leaf surfaces and the thin pointed leaves. Aloe aristata has no papery bracts along the peduncle, a characteristic it does not share with other dwarf aloes.
- **Flower:** In August, the clump is topped with large, bright yellow flowers...a hummingbird oasis, followed by large red "pears."