

# Crazy about Cactus & Succulents

## October 2009

***Opuntia***— Prickly pear cactus  
(oh-PUNT-ee-uh)

FAMILY: Cactaceae

ORIGIN: Mexico to Michigan

HABIT: upright or trailing

SIZE: 6"-4' depending on species

HARDINESS: Tolerant of sun and dry air

CULTURE: Well drained mix, warm temperatures and minimal water

INTERIOR USE: specimen. Some hardy outdoors

SPINES: Generally white to golden. Glochids can be tiny causing considerable irritation.

FLOWERS: Generally yellow followed by bright reddish fruit

PROPAGATION: Leaf cuttings and seed

PESTS/DISEASES: Mealybug, scale

CULTIVARS WORTH NOTING: *Opuntia ellisiana*—Burbank spineless prickly pear  
*O. violaceae* var. *santa-rita*—purple prickly pear  
*O. engelmannii*—golden cactus apple  
*O. microdasys*—bunny ears cactus  
*O. humifusa*—hardy prickly pear

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