



DRAGON FRUIT

(*Hylocereus undatus*)

Dragon fruit is nothing but a name in common parlance of a fruit whose actual name is Pitaya or Pitahaya. This fruit is literally a store house of nutrients, hence loved by a good number of people, especially of Asia. Its shape, colour and the mild sweetness make it delectable to its fans. Its flowers are highly attractive and the fruits contain lot of water apart from several essential minerals and nutrients.

Origin: Central America.

Distribution: Vietnam, Southeast Asia, Mexico, and Thailand.



DESCRIPTION

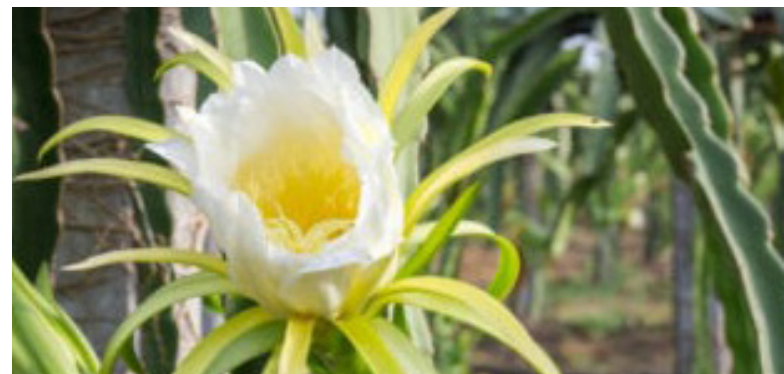
TREE

Hylocereus undatus is a fast growing, epiphytic or xerophytic, vine-like cactus. Stems are triangular, 3-sided, although sometimes 4- or 5-sided, green, fleshy, jointed, many branched. Stems scandent, creeping, sprawling or clambering, up to 10 m long. Aerial roots, which are able to absorb water, are produced on the underside of stems and provide anchorage for stems on vertical surfaces.



FLOWER

Flowers are 25-30 cm long, 15-17 cm wide, nocturnal, scented and hermaphroditic; however, some cultivars are self-compatible. Flowers are typically white/yellow in colour and bell shaped, stamens and lobed stigmas are cream coloured.



FRUIT

The edible portion will be white, red, or magenta in colour according to the genus to which it belongs. Pitaya fruits have been reckoned by all in great esteem as a food supplement on account of the high presence of essential nutrients. It is supposed to be a protector of the liver, a good natural laxative, and a natural remedy for hypertension, diabetes and obesity..





PLANTING CARE

Planting material : Cuttings.

Planting method : Raised bed/ trench - Pole supported with 4 cuttings.

Pit size : 2 x 2 x 2 ft.

Canopy width : 7 ft.

Canopy height : 6 ft.

Season : May - August.

Ideal location : Low land / Plains.

Varieties : Red and White.



IDEAL GROWING CONDITIONS

- ❖ Sunlight requirement : full light.
- ❖ Temperature : 22-36°C.
- ❖ Rainfall : 700-2000 mm.
- ❖ Relative humidity : 50-60 % RH.
- ❖ Soil type : Most soil.
- ❖ Elevation : 0 to 1500ft MSL.
- ❖ Spacing : 10 x 10ft.
- ❖ pH : 5.5 to 6.5.
- ❖ Pruning : yes.
- ❖ Training : yes.
- ❖ Pollination : self pollinated.





NUTRITION MANAGEMENT

Inputs	1st year	2nd year	3rd year	Frequency/stage
NPK	50g	100g	100g	2 split doses
Composted cattle manure	3 kg	5 kg	8 kg	2 split doses
Micronutrients	10g	15g	20g	twice a year
Dolomite	100g	200g	200g	before monsoon

WATER REQUIREMENT

Age of the tree	Quantity of water/Tree/Day
1 Years	3 Liters
2 Years	4 Liters
3 Years	5 Liters



PEST AND DISEASES

Fungal rot: During rainy season - Spray COC - 3g/l.



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