

# Hilla Anna Nursery

Fruit and Ornamental Trees

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SANTA ROSA, CAL.



## SPINELESS CACTUS A SPECIALTY

**T**HE kind to cultivate for fruit and as food for farm animals, including poultry. Spineless cactus will produce when grown under favorable conditions on well cultivated soil, in California's cool climate from 50 to 100 tons of green feed and 195,000 pounds of delicious fruit per acre.



## SPINELESS CACTUS

**Important to Stock Ranchers.** Have you any land absolutely worthless? You can make it as valuable as your best alfalfa field by planting Spineless Cactus.

**Where to Plant.** Plant wherever you wish to have them grow, on rich level land or the steepest, poorest, rocky hillsides, old river beds of rock piles, but their growth and succulence are greatly increased by good soil, some culture and in very dry soils by one or two light irrigations each summer. By such treatment the fruit is greatly increased in size and quality, and the slabs for feeding are doubled in weight and succulence. Nothing responds more promptly to fairly good treatment. They will flourish almost anywhere except where it is too wet for anything else to grow.

**When to Plant.** Unlike most other plants, the Opuntias root best during the heat of summer, and this is the time also to transplant them. They should not be moved at all seasons. During June, July, August and September they will thrive under almost any treatment; the leaves, blossoms, buds, half-grown fruits or any part of the plant will make roots and grow, even on the floor back of a stove, in the pocket of your winter overcoat, or on your writing desk.

**How to Plant.** The Opuntias differ from nearly all other plants, as the cuttings must first be wilted before they will grow, after which nothing grows so readily. When received, place them in some warm, sunny place and allow them to remain a week or more, after which they will readily form roots and start to grow anywhere, even on a board, a pile of rocks or the roof of the house if you choose.

**Distance for Planting.** For stock feed, the giant-growing kinds should be planted about three or four feet apart in rows and the rows should be about ten feet apart.

Spineless Cactus can produce the first year, six months from single-rooted leaves, planted about April 1st, an average of  $47\frac{1}{2}$  pounds per plant on one-fourth acre, yielding at the distance planted ( $2\frac{1}{2}\times 5$  feet) at the rate of **180,230 pounds** (over ninety tons) of forage per acre.

### ECONOMIC VALUES OF THE OPUNTIAS

First. The plants are used for hedges or fences as well as for ornament.

Second. The leaves as food for all kinds of stock, including poultry.

Third. The fat young leaves (joints) make most excellent pickles and are a good and wholesome food when fried like egg-plant. They are also boiled and used as greens and are prepared with sugar, producing a sweetness similar to preserved citron, and may be flavored with ginger or other spices.

Cactus should not be watered until sign of growth is shown.

The abundant mucilaginous juice from the leaves is extracted for mixing with whitewash to make it lasting when exposed to the weather.

Fourth. The leaves are extensively used and most admirably adapted for poultices and as a substitute for hot water bags, (thornless kinds of course preferred.)

Fifth. The fresh fruit of the improved varieties is unique in form and color, superior to the banana in flavor, and is usually sold at the same price per box as oranges, and can be produced at perhaps one-half the expense of producing oranges, apricots, grapes, plums or peaches, as there is never failure in the crop which can be shipped as safely as other deciduous fruits.

Sixth. Most delicious jams, jellies and syrups are made from the fruits.

The juice from the fruit of the crimson varieties is used for coloring ices, jellies and confectionery.

After the second year no cultivation is required. On ordinary land in Sonoma county, this cactus will produce from 50 to 75 tons to the acre.

Cactus sells from \$10 to \$22 per ton, according to the varieties.



## FOOD FOR FARM ANIMALS—INCLUDING POULTRY

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Cactus will prove especially valuable in feeding dairy cattle, as it will furnish a succulent feed throughout the entire year, and an even flow of milk can be obtained.

The fruit differs in various ways, like apples, plums or peaches.

Some of the earlier varieties ripen in June and July. The later ones from August and throughout the winter. Most of them commence bearing the third year from cuttings. The cuttings may then be easily and rapidly planted one-third their length under ground either with a spade or plow in desert. Plant towards the position of the two-o'clock afternoon sun, or they may be simply thrown on the ground and left to themselves.

It is understood that the finest quality of paper can be made from the fibre, inside the leaf of the improved cactus.

According to experience, it has been found that the cactus will grow in any part of this State; also Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, southern Louisiana and a certain section of Carolina and Florida.

Cactus requires no irrigation; it is an excellent dairy roughage; good roughage for cattle, and can be used for hogs, chickens, and especially sheep and goats. It can be fed in a green succulent condition all the year.

Even after cactus has been stored from 6 to 10 years, it is ready to be fed whenever necessary.

When alfalfa was introduced 20 years ago, many wisecracks declared it was no feed for milch cows.

What do they say now?

The new thornless cactus is as safe to handle and as safe to feed as beets, potatoes, carrots or pumpkins.

This improved variety of cactus has been a very common food for horses, elephants, camels, mules, oxen, growing and beef stock, dairy cows, pigs and poultry for quite a number of years.

The average product of a single plant is often from 25 to 150 pounds per annum. It has been found that the new fruiting varieties will yield more fruit per acre, even the third and fourth year, than the best young apple orchard will in ten years, and at one-tenth the expense.

The Tapuna strain seems to be almost as hardy as the fig and will withstand moisture better than most of the others.

This cactus produces three times as much as the horny ones, and can stand 5 to 10 degrees more freezing than the wild type. Some of the varieties ripen and bear as the second crop comes into blossom on the same plant. Leaves are called raquettes.

**Several Do Ask.** Will they run wild again, when placed under desert conditions? Has the well-known Burbank plum and several other wonderful productions introduced in all parts of the world several years ago shown a tendency to be different in any of the foreign countries?

Many and many times the question is asked: Will it pay? Does anything pay? Some people seem to think that corn, wheat, oats, barley, cotton, etc., pays. How many tons of hay, wheat, potatoes, etc., can be raised each season to the acre?

Reports have been given by the State Experimental Station that Spineless Cactus can produce, under favorable conditions, the third year, an average crop from 90 to 135 tons of green feed to the acre.

Cactus can be stored and fed as desired.

The cactus must, of course, be fenced in, the leaves to be fed to the stock and poultry when most needed, and in countries where great numbers of valuable stock are lost by unusual drought, the spineless cactus will be of inestimable value, and will also without doubt prove of great value in less arid countries as a common farm or orchard crop even on the best agriculture soils, but more especially on barren, rocky hills and mountain sides and gravelly river beds, which are of no use whatever.



## SPINELESS CACTUS

The best, newer, thornless ones will stand frost, flood, drought, heat, wind and poor soil as well as the wild ones, and will produce ten tons of fairly good food and green feed, where the average wild ones will produce one ton of poor feed. Several of these varieties will endure twenty-five degrees below zero without injury. Old plants are very much hardier than the young, soft ones.

### THORNLESS CACTUS NOT RAISED FROM SEED

Cuttings should be wilted before planting. No class of plants are more easily grown than this wonderful creation. Soil is not of much importance, and cultivation almost or quite unnecessary. For the fruiting *Opuntias* 16,000 of fruit per acre is found to be a common crop of the poorest soils. By analysis they are found to contain about fourteen per cent of sugar, besides a small amount of protein and fat. Some contain more of these, some less. Most of the improved varieties commence bearing about the third year from cuttings.

To prepare the fruit for table use, cut a thin slice from each end through the skin, then slit from end to end, when the skin may be readily removed.

The fruit and also the leaves are sometimes served in various other forms for food by those who are familiar with them.

The average weight of cactus leaves is eight pounds. The total labor expense of establishing and maintaining a plantation would cost no more than from \$10 to \$20 an acre. Sheep, cattle, hogs and poultry are very fond of this cactus and soon get fat on it.

**Grown From Cutting**—Everybody knows that several trees, such as apples, pears, etc., cannot be raised from seeds and cuttings. The same law holds true with the improved *Opuntias*, but fortunately, it can be raised from cuttings in any quantity with the utmost ease—more surely, they raise themselves, for when broken from the parent plant the cuttings attend to the rooting without further attention whether planted right end up, bottom up, sideways, or not at all.

Unless Mr. Luther Burbank be badly mistaken, the Spineless Cactus is destined to become one of the most useful of plants, furnishing abundance of food for man and beast in regions which have been regarded as too sterile and desolate for any form of stock-raising or farming.

Cactus has been called a vegetable that grows fruit.

One farm near San Mateo county is claimed to pay \$575 per acre only for the fruit.

As a poultry food it is unsurpassed. It has been proven in Santa Clara county that poultry will leave alfalfa, lettuce and other green food for cactus.

Stockmen, poultrymen and lovers of fruit, you are missing a golden opportunity if you do not plant cactus.

Our cuttings are lightly but safely packed so that they will reach you in good condition, transportation to be paid by purchaser.

Please state whether you wish the cuttings sent by express or freight; most of them are too large to be sent by mail. Special express rates are allowed on cactus and other cuttings and plants (if prepaid, eight cents per pound.)

**No order can be accepted for less than one dollar. Terms Cash.**

Prices per pound, 15 cents; per leaf, 25 cents; per 12, \$2.50; per 100, \$25.00; per 1,000, \$175.00.

Varieties recommended by the Department of Agriculture of California as the best for stock feed and poultry:

Anacantha, Malta, Smith, Tapuna, Mission, Blanco, Morada, Colorado, White Fruit, Monelova, Watson, Trailing, Skelley, Corfu, Catania, Marin, Meyers, *Gymnocarpa*.

All 1911 varieties—Santa Rosa, Sonoma, California, Melrose—50c apiece.

**Chico, Monterey, Fresno, Hermit, Pyramid, Solano—75 cents each.**