

## SEED OF THE MONTH PROGRAM



**Common Name:** Night Blooming Cereus - Dragon Fruit or Strawberry Pear.

**Scientific Name:** Hylocereus undatus

**Height:**  
20 feet

**Spacing:**  
24 "

**Sun Exposure:**  
Full Sun

**Bloom Color:** White nocturnal blooms.

**Bloom Time:** Approximately 2 yrs. from seed and less than that when planted from slip.

**Other Details:** The Night Blooming Cereus is a light feeder and doesn't require a lot of fertilizing. When fertilizing use a slow release, low nitrogen fertilizer. You might also like to place a climbing pole into your container and train your Cereus to grow nicely making harvesting easy (See photo above). Trim your plant when it becomes too large for your space. This plant has thorns, it would be wise to use gardening gloves.

**Soil Requirements:** Well drained sandy soil. If planting your Dragon Fruit plant in a container the container should be 24 inches in diameter or larger and it would be ideal to use a cactus potting mixture. For in-ground planting try placing your plant inside a tire as this might be a nice way to help control the spreading of this plant and make it more manageable to collect fruit. This plant needs something to climb on. If you plant it near a fence, it will climb on it and can get very heavy, be sure your fence is sturdy and can handle the weight.

**Water Requirements:** Water only when absolutely dry and then only water lightly.

The Dragon Fruit plant grows easily by seed but will fruit faster if you plant slips.

**Known Uses:** When planted around your property line the thorns on this plant make a good deterrent to trespassers. It's also a very exotic and tasty fruit which is ready to harvest when the outside is pinkish or yellow (depending on variety) and if you push in on the fruit and it feels soft like an avocado does when its ready to harvest, your dragon fruit is ready to eat!