

Dragon Fruit

Hylocereus spp. · Cactus family

DIFFICULTY Easy

TYPE Perennial climbing cactus

MATURITY 1–2 years to first fruit



SUN
Full sun–part shade



WATER
Low–moderate, drought-tolerant



SOIL PH
6.0–7.0



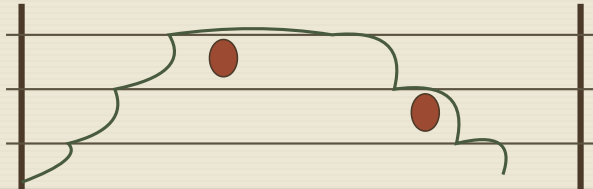
SPACING
2–3m on a post/trellis



DEPTH
as per cutting

01 Climbs a sturdy post

Dragon fruit is a climbing cactus that needs a strong post or trellis to scramble up, sending out aerial roots to cling as it grows — a distinctive, low-water addition to a homestead.



trained along wires, fruit hanging

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant a rooted cutting at the base of a sturdy post or trellis.
SOIL	Free-draining, tolerates poor soil.
TIMING	Plant in spring once frost risk has passed.

04 Problems

- **Poor fruit set** — flowers open at night and need pollination in that window; hand-pollinate if needed.
- **Frost damage** — protect young plants in cooler zones.
- **Stem rot** — from waterlogged soil; ensure sharp drainage.
- **Sunburn** — in very intense sun, some afternoon shade can help.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Nothing needing shade from it	Poorly drained spots	Not applicable — long-lived perennial climber.

03 Growing care

- Provide a strong post or trellis structure from planting.
- Water moderately — established plants are quite drought-tolerant.
- Hand-pollinate at night or dusk if fruit set is poor — flowers open briefly after dark.
- Feed lightly a few times through the growing season.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Skin colour is fully developed and even.
METHOD	Cut or twist from the stem.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Fridge, about a week.