

Botanical Name: Cereus peruvianus

Common Name: Peruvian apple

Type of Plant: dicot: succulent Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an upright, clumping form of columnar-stemmed cactus -
young plants are usually single-trunked; will develop fleshy blue-green
distinctly ribbed upright branches; plants are leafless, with short spines
along the ribs

Height 10'- 15' (30') Spread 2/3 to equal Growth Rate slow

Environment:

Exposure outdoors thrives in warm sunny habitats - avoid heavy shade,
especially at inland sites

Soil requires well-drained sites (or little water)

Hardiness tender (zones 16,17, 21-24): prefers warm coastal locations

Morphology:

Leaves absent - the blue-green stems are photosynthetic

Flowers very large (to 6" across), white, open at night; arise from
the spine-cushions along the ribs; mostly in summer

Fruit a fleshy berry: lavender-rose colored, to 3-4" long, edible

Propagation: seed or stem cuttings

Usage: a large-scale accent shrub (or small tree with age) for
desert, subtropical or Mediterranean-theme gardens, valued for its dramatic
shape and structure (secondarily for its large flowers); an excellent container
plant

Landscape Care:

Watering little required after established; water once/month in
summer (more frequently if grown in container)

Fertilizing none required

Pruning leave alone for several years; may selectively remove
lateral stems back to union with trunk for more open shape

Pests/Diseases relatively free; check for cottony cushion scale

Special Conditions sensitive to severe frosts; other South American species

are available

Origin:

Peru

Family:

Cactaceae