

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



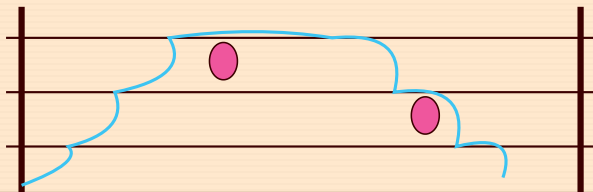
SPACING
2–3m on a
post/trellis



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.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

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.

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.
PRESERVING	See Freezing Produce (freezing a harvest surplus) or Dehydrating (dried tropical fruit) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

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