Eastern Prickly Pear

Opuntia humifusa

Unique Characteristics

This Ohio native cactus thrives in hot and dry environments in full sun and is also winter hardy. The fleshy foliage of this plant adds a textural element to garden plantings. The readily available pollen and nectar attract a variety of insects, especially honey and bumble bees.

**Plant Type:** Perennial Cactus  
**Native Range:** East of the Rocky Mountains  
**Sun:** Full sun  
**Water:** Low  
**Soil:** Dry, sandy, rocky  
**pH:** Mildly acidic to mildly alkaline  
**Height:** 2-6 inches  
**Spread:** Variable-plants spread slowly to form a low ground cover  
**Wildlife:** Special value to ground nesting bees  
**Hardiness Zones:** 4-9  
**Bloom Color:** Yellow  
**Bloom Time:** May, June, July  
**Fruit:** Purple  
**Uses:** Attractive in rock gardens and in dry areas where most plants will not survive.

Recommended for landscapes prone to deer damage  
*(Note: although deer may eat new pads)*

Photos courtesy of Bill Hendricks