

Hylocereus undatus

Common Name(s): Dragon Fruit, Queen of the Night

Synonym(s): *Cereus undatus*, *Cereus tricoloratus*,
Hylocereus tricoloratus

Subfamily: Cactoideae

Tribe: Hylocereeae

Distribution: Widely Cultivated (Cultivation)

Habit: Angled

Flower: White

Encounterability: Common Worldwide



Description: The species in this genus grow like vines, sprawling and clambering their way up into the trees. Most species are not epiphytic, but root in the ground and climb from there. The plants may branch frequently and grow quite high up exceeding 30 feet (10 meters) thus becoming quite massive.

Stems: The stems are typically three-angled with wavy or punctuated margins and few short spines if any. Green 3-winged, from a few cm up to 5 m long (in mature plants), 4 to 7.5 cm margins undulate and horny wide with wings that are 2,5 to 5 cm wide.

Areoles: about 4.5 cm apart.

Spines: 1 to 3(- 5) conical spines up to 1 cm long (but usually about 2-3 mm long).

Flowers: The floral tubes are thick with leafy scales and no spines or bristles or hairs. Flowers are ornate, fragrant and beautiful 25-35 cm long by 30 cm across, white with green outer tepals and bracts. Flowers of *Hylocereus* are the largest in the cactus family.

Blooming season: It bloom only at night, and usually the flower last just one night, in tropical climate the plants can have up to 4-6 flowering/fruitleting cycles per year. In temperate climate they bloom In late spring to early summer

Fruits: If pollinated the *Hylocereus* produce edible red fruits with white pulpa up to 12 cm long.

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