



# Dragon Fruit

## 'American Beauty'

Ancient Chinese legends say that the Dragon Fruit was created thousands of years ago by a dragon in battle. During the battle a dragon blew a burst of fire containing the fruit. The Chinese believed that those who consumed the pulp of the dragon fruit were given the strength, and immortality of the dragon. The health benefits and delicious flavor of this exotic fruit is legendary.

### Plant Highlights

- Fast Grower
- Easy to Grow
- Easy to Containerize
- Dark Pink Flesh

Dragon Fruit plants are easy to grow in containers as long as you provide a strong support structure! Dragon Fruit offers excellent nutritional and health benefits. Dragon fruit is packed with high concentrations of antioxidants that boost the immune system.

Pitaya are a fast growing, perennial, terrestrial, epiphytic, vine-like cacti. They have triangular (3-sided, sometimes 4- or 5-sided), green, fleshy, jointed, many-branched stems. Each stem segment has 3 flat, wavy wings, (ribs) with corneous margins and may have 1-3 small spines or be spineless. The stem sections of pitaya form aerial roots which adhere to the surface upon which they grow or climb. The vine may reach 20 ft long.

Dragon fruit are easy to grow requiring only sun, water, decent soil and a trellis in which to grow on. Its popularity has grown greatly in recent years partly due to its love of moderate temps, Its ability to withstand high temps and the remarkable ability to be container grown thus giving growers in higher zones the ability to keep this plant year-round. Interesting doesn't begin to describe this plant. A specimen to be admired for sure.

### Bloom Characteristics:

Flowers are fragrant

### Water Requirements:

Drought-tolerant; suitable for xeriscaping

### Where to Grow:

Suitable for growing in containers

### Height:

8-10 ft. (2.4-3 m)

### Spacing:

36-48 in. (90-120 cm)

### Sun Exposure:

Full Sun

Sun to Partial Shade

### Bloom Color:

White/Near White

### Bloom Time:

Late Summer/Early Fall

### Foliage:

Succulent

### Soil pH requirements:

6.1 to 6.5 (mildly acidic)

6.6 to 7.5 (neutral)