

Road Kill Cactus



Road Kill Cactus (Names and Synonyms: *Consolea rubescens*, *Opuntia guanicana*, *Consolea guanicana*, *Cactus rubescens*)

Family: Cactaceae

Opuntia rubescens (Cactaceae family) is indigenous to the Caribbean Islands.

Cold Tolerance: 25 to 30°F; -3.9 to -1.1°C; Heat Tolerance: Very high heat tolerance.; Light

Requirement: Full sun to partial sun in hot dry climates.

Water needs: Drought tolerant but best with deep irrigation every week or so in summer. It can take more frequent watering in quick draining soils. *O. rubescens* also likes more humidity than many western cacti and it will require more frequent watering in a container depending on its size.

Uses: *O. rubescens* is a nice tree cactus for larger cactus and succulent gardens. It makes a nice specimen plant with its interesting flattened pads.

This cactus species has green to dark green stem pads which are very thin, appearing flattened, hence the common name 'Road Kill Cactus'. Looking a bit like a comical cardboard cutout of a cactus, *O. rubescens* eventually becomes a large shrub or small tree with a trunk up to one foot in diameter and stem pads that thicken with age. Individual stem pads average 12" to 15" long by 4" wide, but are initially only 1/2" to 3/4" thick. The pads are covered with small sharp glochids (minute spines) and care should be taken when handling this cactus. It blooms in summer with double yellow to orange flowers, which are followed by red fruit.

Category: Succulent plants

Families: Cactaceae

Genus: *Consolea*

Species: *rubescens*

Geographical Area of Origin: Central America

Climatic Zones: Mediterranean: South and islands, hills. USDA 10 a

Habit: Shrub

Leaves: Evergreen



Colore Foglie: Verde 

Flowering Period: Giugno / Luglio / Agosto / Settembre

Flower: Simple/double flower

Colore Fiori: Arancione  Rosso 

Favorite soil: Neutral / Light sandy / Middle-Dough / Medium soil

Water needs: Low / little water / Medium

Light Exposure: Medium shade / Half shade / Full light / Full sun

Form: Tree

Colore Frutti: Rosso 