

There are many wonderful varieties of fruit available worldwide, but have you seen, or tasted, these unusual fruits?



JACKFRUIT

Jackfruit is the world's largest fruit, tipping the scales at up to 100 pounds. Originally from India, it has gained popularity as a meat replacement in foods like tacos. Its stringy flesh mimics the texture of pulled pork. It can taste neutral or sweet, depending on how ripe it is. Its rich in vitamin C, B vitamins and potassium.

DRAGON FRUIT (PITAYA)

Dragon fruit grows on a cactus that originates in Central & South America. Don't eat the skin, which is scaly (like a dragon's) & yellow or pink. Scoop out the crunchy, pink or white flesh with a spoon. It's full of tiny black seeds & tastes like kiwi or pear. Eat as is, or add to cocktails or desserts. Dragon fruit offers plenty of fibre, vitamins & minerals, and can even help keep your gut bacteria healthy.





PRICKLY PEAR

It's prickly, but it's not really a pear. It's a cactus native to the Americas. You can eat both the pads (nopales) & the fruit (tunas). When you buy it in a store, the prickly parts are often removed. (If not, wear gloves to peel it.) Prickly pear fruit has a watermelon-like taste and is rich in calcium and antioxidants, including vitamin C. Eat it plain or use it in jelly, candy or syrup.

DURIAN

Durian is a southeast Asian fruit you either love or hate. It's nicknamed the king of fruits due to its custard-like flavour & size (up to 18 pounds). It's also called corpse fruit, thanks to its super-stinky smell. The spiky fruit is rich in iron, vitamin C, folic acid & potassium. But it also has about 357 calories per cup. Eat durian fresh or use in desserts like ice cream.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY PARAMJIT!