

# THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO.... MOROCCAN PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS SEED OIL



ARGANOILDIRECT.COM



## A Natural Cosmetic Sensation?

### Pure Opuntia Ficus Indica seed Oil.

Moroccan Barbary fig cactus seed oil is known by many names. Barbary fig seed oil, Berber Fig Seed Oil, Prickly Pear Cactus Seed Oil, Cactus Pear Oil, Aknari ( the word for cactus in Berber ) and even Moroccan Cactus Oil.

These are all simply names for the same thing Pure Opuntia Ficus Indica seed Oil. This is an oil which is obtained from cold pressing the seeds of the Prickly Pear cactus- a member of the Cactaceae family.





## The uses & benefits of pure Cactus Seed Oil

Cactus Seed Oil is a remarkable natural oil that has many **benefits for skin and hair** and in some cases it can surpass even **Argan Oil** in its effectiveness at caring for hair and skin.

It is a silky smooth oil which is ideal for targeting areas of **facial lines** and **wrinkles** where an extra intensive treatment is needed. Pure Cactus Seed oil is often added to face masks and is an ingredient in some high end cosmetics.

Like Argan Oil, is it very effective for treating skin problems such as dry skin, **Eczema** and **Psoriasis**.





## How is Cactus Seed Oil Made?

**Prickly pear cactus seed oil** is a natural oil **cold-pressed** from the seeds of the fruit of the **Opuntia ficus indica** cactus.

The cacti will grow up to 2 meters in height and need very little water. They thrive in several hot, arid areas of the world and most successfully in **Morocco**.

Prickly pear cactus **seeds are very hard** and woody and contain **less than 5% oil**. So huge amounts of seeds must be extracted to prepare this oil.

In fact up to **1000 kilos of fruit yields** just 30 Kilos of seed making just **one litre** of this precious oil.





## The Making of Cactus Seed Oil.

The Opuntia Ficus Indica cactus produces striking, vibrant yellow and pink flowers in the spring.

The fruit is harvested from late July to September, when it is slightly soft to the touch. These ripe fruits, typically green or reddish-purple in color, have an ovoid shape and measure between 5 to 8 cm in length.

Inside the fruit, you'll find a sweet, nutrient-rich pulp that can vary in color from reddish to greenish to yellowish. This pulp is packed with tiny black seeds, which are the source of the oil.

The seeds are separated from the fruit, then carefully sun dried before being pressed to release the oil.



## The Making of Cactus Seed Oil..... continued

### Moroccan Cactus Oil - The Difference?

Our authentic, virgin cactus seed oil is entirely hand-made from start to finish using traditional techniques.

Prickly Pear Cactus seeds are very hard. They contain just 5% - 10% oil. This means we need to collect 1000 kilos to make just one litre of pure oil. In the first step, the cactus fruits are hand-selected at just the right ripeness. Next, the seeds are extracted from the pulp and slowly dried in the sun until the moisture content is perfect.

After this, a gentle hand toasting of the cactus seeds is performed. This step significantly increases the content of volatile compounds that give the oil its unique smell, flavour, and nutrient composition.

Finally, the oil is extracted using a low-heat screw press process followed by filtration or sedimentation to purify the oil from solid plant material.

### Differences in Cactus Oil Prices?

You may have seen other products advertised as Prickly Pear Seed Oil on eBay but at much lower prices?

Why? To make authentic, hand-made Moroccan cactus oil, is a long, complex, labour intensive process.

Factor in the need to select 1000 kg of ripe cactus fruit to produce just 1 litre of oil and you can see why a hand-made Moroccan oil commands such a high price.

Outside of Morocco some modern commercial producers now use a mechanised process with single-stage, high-extraction machinery. This yields more oil but skips the traditional hand-processing steps, notably the toasting of the seeds, that give Moroccan cactus oil its unique properties.

These oils are generally characterized by their lighter texture and lack of toasted cactus seed smell.





## What is Cactus Seed Oil used for?

Cactus seed oil is used much like argan oil and is exceptionally rich in nutrients, minerals, and plant sterols that help renew both skin and hair.

It contains 150% more vitamin E than argan oil, along with other powerful bioactive compounds that protect against free radical damage and promote cell regeneration.

Due to its rarity and high cost, prickly pear cactus seed oil is typically used as an intensive treatment on targeted areas such as the eyes, forehead, mouth, cheeks, or neck.

TIP: Use argan oil as an all-over anti-aging treatment, then apply cactus seed oil to areas that need extra care.





## Benefits of Cactus Seed Oil

- 1 Reduce dark circles and puffiness around eyes and reduces loose skin and lines.
- 2 Restore skin elasticity, firming skin to help smooth wrinkles and increase firmness.
- 3 Natural intensive anti aging moisturiser.
- 4 Tighten pores for a smoother skin texture
- 5 Calm inflamed and dry skin conditions.





## How to use Cactus Seed Oil for skin care

**3 to 6 drops** of pure cactus seed oil will normally be enough to treat the **face** and target areas of skin that require more intensive therapy.

Our **10ml** bottles contains around **240 drops** and so should last you **one or even 2 months** – depending on usage.

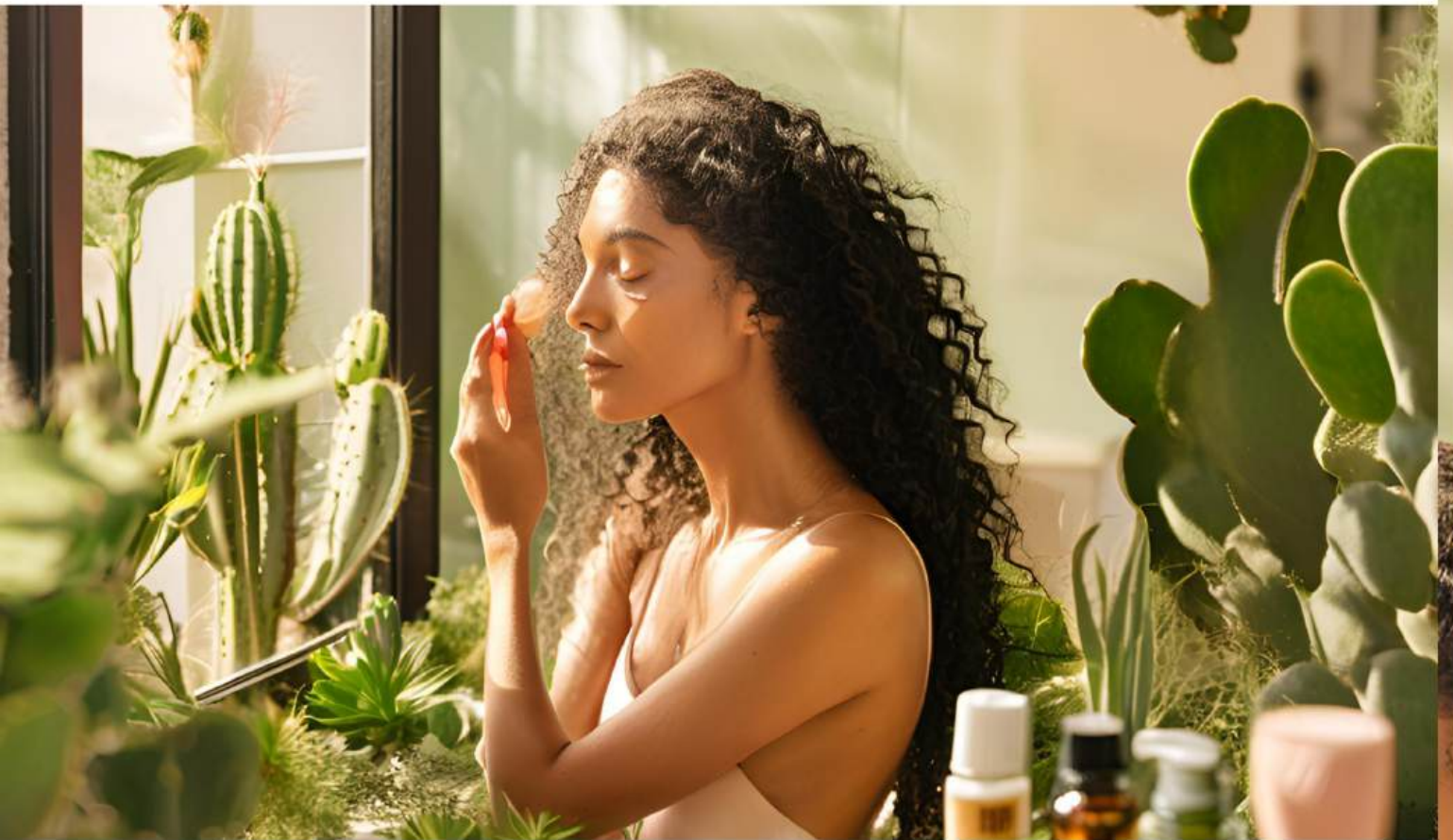
Cactus seed oil is easily be applied to **wet or dry skin** - ideally always **after cleansing**.

Put a **drop or two** onto your fingertips and **massage** it gently into areas needed treatment. The oil will leave skin feeling soft and smooth.

Use on facial areas at least **once a day** especially around the eyes, lips and any areas with wrinkles.

The ideal time to apply is **before going to bed** to allow the oil to work overnight.





## How to use Cactus Seed Oil for hair care

This deep natural treatment is ideal for very dry, chemical or heat damaged hair. In Morocco pure cactus seed oil is actually used to repair the hair shaft from UV damage.

To apply cactus oil, warm the oil, then massage it into your hair starting with the tips and working up to the scalp.

Leave for 30 minutes, ideally keeping the hair warm. Wash excess oil, if necessary, with a cleansing shampoo.

Where only the ends of the hair shaft are split, damaged or where hair is excessively frizzy use a few extra drops and massage them in these areas for the best effect.





## What is in pure Cactus Seed Oil

Cactus seed oil contains 150% more tocopherol (vitamin E) than even argan oil, contributing to its potent anti-aging and antioxidant properties.

Tocopherol helps protect the skin from free radical damage, promoting a youthful, radiant appearance. The oil also boasts a high content of Betaine, a naturally occurring compound known for its moisturizing and anti-inflammatory properties.

In terms of fatty acids, prickly pear seed oil contains:

- Oleic Acid: 20.6% – A monounsaturated fat that nourishes and hydrates the skin, supporting its elasticity.
- Linoleic Acid: 60.5% – An essential fatty acid that helps maintain the skin's moisture barrier and promotes a smooth, healthy complexion.
- Stearic Acid: 3.2% – A saturated fatty acid known for its emollient properties, helping to soften and condition the skin.
- Palmitic Acid: 13.9% – Another saturated fatty acid that helps maintain skin structure and prevent moisture loss.
- Tocopherol (Vitamin E): 895 mg/kg – A powerful antioxidant that protects the skin from oxidative stress and supports its natural regeneration.





## Cactus Seed Oil F.A.Q's

### What should cactus seed oil look like?

A pure cactus oil is a light green/yellow in colour.

### What does cactus seed oil smell like?

Cactus seed oil has a distinctive smell which is hard to describe.

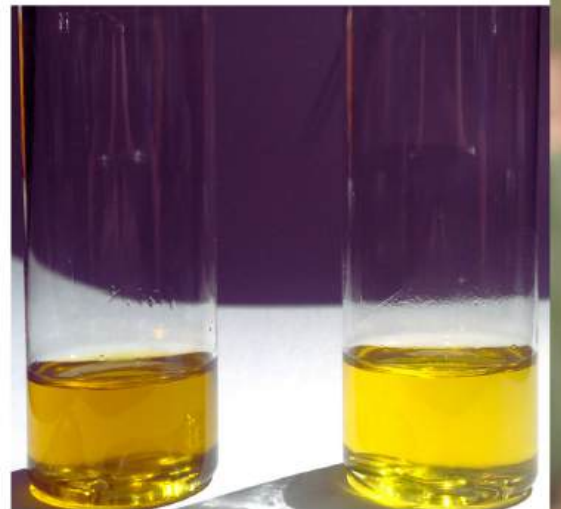
We believe it is best described as Fruity & Floral with a sweet honey smell.

### How long does it keep?

Up to 18 months out of direct strong light, for example in a cupboard, in an air tight bottle.

### What is in cactus seed oil?

A genuine cactus seed oil product should only include 100% Pure Opuntia Ficus Indica Oil in its ingredients.



TRADITIONAL BERBER PRODUCE

# ARGAN OIL & NATURAL MOROCCAN PRODUCTS



Argan Oil is a wonderful natural moisturiser.

By applying it regularly this natural oil helps to keep lines, wrinkles and skin blemishes at bay.

Pure Argan and Cactus seed oils make skin feel smooth and soft, help prevent and remove stretch marks and minor scars.



For some people it works wonders calming inflamed skin conditions such as Eczema. It leaves skin feeling great and is easy to use.

Pure Argan is also our hair conditioner of choice. By applying Argan Oil to protect, soften and condition both hair and scalp Berber women preserve the full and dark hair for which they are famous in Morocco.

In 1998 I started working with family, friends and the best of the Berber women's cooperatives to source our 100% Pure Cosmetic Argan Oil, Cactus seed oil and Organic toasted Culinary Argan Oil for eating.

With a worldwide base of regular customers we include FAST & FREE Delivery. For you that means no nasty surprise postage charges added at checkout.

On our website at [www.arganoildirect.com](http://www.arganoildirect.com) you can download our 2 free eBooks about Argan Oil or send us any questions you may have.

I look forward to hearing from you.

**Malika**

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