

Prickly Pear Cactus Genus

Opuntia *Opuntia*, commonly called the prickly pear cactus, is a genus of flowering plants in the cactus family Cactaceae, many known for their flavorful fruit *Opuntia*, commonly called the prickly pear cactus, is a genus of flowering plants in the cactus family Cactaceae, many known for their flavorful fruit and showy flowers. Cacti are native to the Americas, and are well adapted to arid climates; however, they are still vulnerable to alterations in precipitation and temperature driven by climate change. Between 8,000 and 9,000 years ago, the *Opuntia* prickly pear cactus was domesticated in central Mexico. The plant has been introduced to Australia, southern Europe, the Middle East, and parts of Africa 165fa27816

Opuntia chlorotica Its common names include pancake prickly pear, flapjack prickly pear and dollarjoint prickly pear. The cactus is *Opuntia chlorotica* is a species of prickly pear in the family Cactaceae. Its common names include pancake prickly pear, flapjack prickly pear and dollarjoint prickly pear. prickly pear in the family Cactaceae 165fa27816

Opuntia basilaris is a medium to small-sized prickly pear cactus 70–400 mm (2.8–15.7 in) tall, with pink to rose colored flowers. A single plant may consist of hundreds of fleshy, flattened pads. These are more or less blue-gray, depending on variety, 50–210 mm (2.0–8.3 in) long and less than 100 mm (3.9 in) wide and 10–15 mm (0.4–0.6 in) thick. They are typically spineless, but as is typical for *Opuntia* species, have many small barbed bristles, called glochids, that easily penetrate the skin. *Opuntia basilaris* blooms from spring to early summer. 165fa27816 *Opuntia phaeacantha* has a mounding habit of flattened green pads. The pads are protected by clusters of spines. Each cluster bearing 1–4 spines. The spines are brown, reddish-brown, yellowish, or gray, usually darker brownish toward the base than the tip, and often over 3 cm in length. At the base of the spine cluster is a round tuft of easily detached yellowish to reddish or brown bristles called glochids. Glochids are also present on the fruit. This is the source for the plants common name "prickly pear". 165fa27816 == Description == 165fa27816 The nomenclatural history of this species is somewhat complicated due to the varieties, as well as its habit of hybridizing with *Opuntia phaeacantha*. It differs from *O. phaeacantha* by being green year round instead of turning reddish purple during winter or dry seasons, as well as having yellow flowers with red centers. 165fa27816

Opuntia basilaris 8–15. 7 in) tall, with pink to rose colored flowers. It is also found throughout the Grand Canyon and Colorado River region as well as into southern Utah and Nevada, and in the western Arizona regions along the Lower Colorado River Valley. Colorado River Valley. *Opuntia basilaris* is a medium to small-sized prickly pear cactus 70–400 mm (2. *Opuntia basilaris*, the beavertail cactus or beavertail pricklypear, is a cactus species found in the southwest United States. It occurs mostly in the Mojave, Anza-Borrego, and Colorado Deserts, as well as in the Colorado Plateau and northwest Mexico 165fa27816

== Description... == 165fa27816 == Description == 165fa27816 *Opuntia monacantha*, native to South America 165fa27816 == Varieties == 165fa27816 *O. engelmannii* var. *laevis* — smooth prickly pear; Arizona 165fa27816 == Description == 165fa27816 *Opuntia*

aurantiaca rarely exceeds 0.5 m in height (may reach 2 m with standing support). Plants consist of up to 100 or more cladodes from 5 to 20 cm long and 1 to 3 cm wide. 165fa27816

Opuntia aurantiaca The species occurs naturally Opuntia aurantiaca, commonly known as tiger-pear, jointed cactus or jointed prickly-pear, is a species of cactus from South America. Opuntia aurantiaca, commonly known as tiger-pear, jointed cactus or jointed prickly-pear, is a species of cactus from South America. The species occurs naturally in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay and is considered an invasive species in Africa and Australia 165fa27816

The cactus is bluish-green and manifests a bushy to erect form that may attain a height of two meters or more. 165fa27816 == Description == 165fa27816 Prickly pear alone is also used to refer to the fruit, but may also be used for the plant itself; in addition, other names given to the plant and its specific parts include tuna (fruit), sabra, sabbar, nopal (pads, plural nopales, from the Nahuatl word nōpalli), nostle (fruit) from the Nahuatl word nōchtli, and paddle cactus. The genus is named for the Ancient Greek city of Opus. The fruit and stems are edible. The most common culinary species is the "Barbary fig" (Opuntia ficus-indica). 165fa27816

Opuntia ficus-indica Opuntia species hybridize easily, but the wild origin of O. It is grown primarily as a fruit crop, and also for the vegetable nopales and other uses. ficus-indica is the most widespread of the long-domesticated cactuses. Cacti are good crops for dry areas because they efficiently convert water into biomass. O. ficus-indica is likely to have been in central Mexico, where its closest genetic relatives are found. Opuntia ficus-indica, the Indian fig opuntia, fig opuntia, or prickly pear, is a species of cactus that has long been a domesticated crop plant grown in agricultural Opuntia ficus-indica, the Indian fig opuntia, fig opuntia, or prickly pear, is a species of cactus that has long been a domesticated crop plant grown in agricultural economies throughout arid and semiarid parts of the world. ficus-indica is the most widespread and most commercially important cactus. O 165fa27816

Common prickly pear Common prickly pear is a common name which may refer to certain species of cactus in the genus Opuntia including: Opuntia ficus-indica Opuntia monacantha Common prickly pear is a common name which may refer to certain species of cactus in the genus Opuntia including: 165fa27816

O. engelmannii var. lindheimeri — Texas prickly pear; endemic to U.S. in Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas. 165fa27816 In places where they have been introduced outside their native range, some species in the genus Opuntia behave as aggressive invasive species. 165fa27816 O. engelmannii var. linguiformis — cow's tongue cactus, cow tongue prickly pear; Texas 165fa27816

Opuntia phaeacantha Several varieties of this particular species occur, and it may hybridize with other prickly pears, making identification sometimes tricky. The plant forms dense but localized thickets. is a species of prickly pear cactus known by the common names brown-spine prickly pear, tulip prickly pear, and desert prickly pear, which is found across Opuntia phaeacantha is a species of prickly pear cactus known by the common names brown-spine prickly pear, tulip prickly pear, and desert prickly pear, which is found across the southwestern United States, lower Great Plains, and northern Mexico 165fa27816

Opuntia engelmannii Oklahoma, Texas. engelmannii var. engelmannii var. linguiformis —

cow's tongue cactus, cow tongue prickly pear; Texas O. It goes by a variety of common names, including desert prickly pear, discus prickly pear, Engelmann's prickly pear in the US, and nopal, abrojo, joconostle, and vela de coyote in Mexico. *O. flexospina* is most likely a spiny *Opuntia engelmannii* is a prickly pear common across the south-central and Southwestern United States and northern Mexico

Opuntia humifusa *humifusa*, commonly known as the devil's-tongue, eastern prickly pear or Indian fig, is a cactus of the genus *Opuntia* present in parts of the eastern United States *Opuntia humifusa*, commonly known as the devil's-tongue, eastern prickly pear or Indian fig, is a cactus of the genus *Opuntia* present in parts of the eastern United States, southeastern Canada, and northeastern Mexico

The juicy red or purple fruits measure from 3–5 cm (1+1/8–2 in). As the fruit matures, it changes color from green to red, and often remains on the cactus until the following spring. There are 6 to 33 small, flat, light-colored seeds in each fruit. Some analysis of the prehistoric range of *O. chlorotica* has been conducted by studies in the Waterman Mountains of Arizona; these pollen core analyses indicate that this cactus species was present in northern Arizona in late Wisconsinan glaciation period. == Description ==
Opuntia stricta *O. engelmannii* var. *flavispingua* — yellow-spined prickly pear; Arizona, Mexico The flowers are bright yellow with a pale green to orange or red center. In some regions occasional plants may produce flowers of other colors such as orange, pink, or magenta. The edible fruits are usually red or purple with a pink seedy...
== Description == Most culinary references to the "prickly pear" refer to this species. The Spanish name tuna is also used for the fruit of this cactus and for *Opuntia* in general; according to Alexander von Humboldt, it was a word of Taino origin taken into the Spanish language around 1500. *Opuntia ficus-indica*
Common English names for the plant and its fruit are Indian fig *opuntia*, Barbary fig, cactus pear, prickly pear, and spineless cactus, among many others. In Mexican Spanish, the plant is called nopal...
== Names == *O. engelmannii* var. *engelmannii* — Engelmann's prickly pear; Mexico, southwestern U.S., California *O. engelmannii* var...

Opuntia stricta United States. Common names include erect prickly pear and nopal *estricto* (Spanish). The first description as *Cactus strictus* was published in 1803 by Adrian *Opuntia stricta* is a species of large cactus that is native to subtropical and tropical coastal areas of the Americas, especially around the Caribbean and the lower East Coast of the United States. The first description as *Cactus strictus* was published in 1803 by Adrian Hardy Haworth. In 1812 he moved the species to the genus *Opuntia*. Common names include erect prickly pear and nopal *estricto* (Spanish)

O. engelmannii var. *cuija* — nopal *cuijo*; endemic to Mexico, in Guanajuato, Hidalgo, San Luis Potosí. As is the case in other *Opuntia* species, the green stems of this low-growing perennial cactus are flattened, and are formed of segments. Barbed bristles are found around the surfaces of the segments, and longer spines are sometimes present. The flowers are yellow to gold in color, and are found along the margins of mature segments. The flowers are waxy and sometimes have red centers. They measure 4–6 cm (1+5/8–2+3/8 in) across. This cactus blooms in the late spring.

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