

**Botanical Name:** *Opuntia engelmannii*

**Common Name:** Prickly Pear Cactus, Engelmann's Prickly Pear



**Family:** Cactaceae

**Native Distribution:** Southwest U.S. and into northern Mexico on open desert areas, gravel slopes, and grasslands

**Plant Size:** Shrubby, large pads forming dense clumps up to 3' high, 6-12' wide

**Flowers:** 3" wide very showy, yellow flowers, sometimes going pink to magenta, from April to June

**Foliage:** Yellowish spines, yellowish-brown glochids, and green pads

**Site Preferences:** Full sun

**Landscape Uses:** Use in xeriscapes or as barriers.

**Other Stuff:**

- Six varieties of *Opuntia engelmannii* have been recognized.
- Extremely drought tolerant, requiring little water once established, cold hardy and a fast grower.
- Up to 8,000 ft; hardy in Phoenix.
- Both the fruits and the pads (nopales) are edible.
- Susceptible to cactus beetles and cochineal insects.