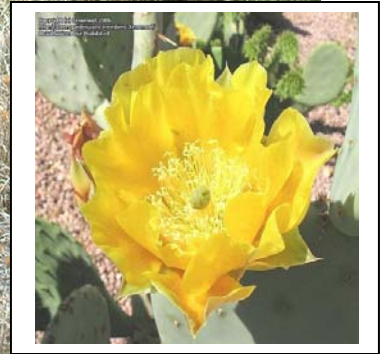


Botanical Name: *Opuntia engelmannii*

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.