

# Flora of the Pacific Northwest Checklist

A checklist of the Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest  
Hosted by the University of Washington Herbarium

## Family: Cactaceae

6 terminal taxa (species, subspecies, and varieties).

The Flora of the Pacific Northwest Checklist aims to be a complete list of the native and naturalized vascular plants of the Pacific Northwest, with current classifications, nomenclature and synonymy.

### Taxa included in the checklist:

- Native taxa whether extant, extirpated, or extinct.
- Exotic taxa that are naturalized, escaped from cultivation, or persisting wild.
- Waifs (e.g., ballast plants, escaped crop plants) and other scarcely collected exotics.
- Interspecific hybrids that are frequent or self-maintaining.
- Some unnamed taxa in the process of being described.

Family classifications follow [APG IV](#) for angiosperms, PPG I (J. Syst. Evol. 54:563-603. 2016.) for pteridophytes, and Christenhusz et al. (Phytotaxa 19:55-70. 2011.) for gymnosperms, with a few exceptions. Nomenclature and synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the [2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest](#) except where superseded by new information.

Accepted names are indicated with **blue type**, synonyms with **gray type**.

Native species and infraspecies are marked with **bold-face type**.

\*Non-native and introduced taxa are preceded by an asterisk.

**Please note:** This is a working checklist, continuously updated. Use it at your discretion.

Created from the Flora of the PNW Checklist database on April 4th, 2026 at 3:45pm PT.

Available online at <https://burkeherbarium.org/pnwflora/>

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# Dicots:

## Cactaceae [FNA4, HC, HC2] Cactus Family

### **Coryphantha** [FNA4, HC, HC2]

Cactées. 32. 1868.  
pincushion cactus

#### **Coryphantha missouriensis** (Sweet) Britton & Rose [FNA4, HC, HC2]

Ill. Fl. N. U.S. ed. 2. 2: 570. 1913.

### **Opuntia** [FNA4, HC, HC2]

Gard. Dict. Abr., ed. 4. vol. 2. 1754.  
pricklypear cactus

#### **Opuntia columbiana** Griffiths [FNA4, HC2]

Bull. Torrey Bot. Club. 43: 523. (as species). 1916.  
Columbia prickly-pear

*Opuntia erinacea* Engelm. & J.M. Bigelow var. *columbiana* (Griffiths) L.D. Benson [KZ99]

*Opuntia polyacantha* Haw. [FNA4, HC, HC2], misapplied

*Opuntia polyacantha* Haw. var. *polyacantha* [FNA4, HC2], misapplied

#### **Opuntia fragilis** (Nutt.) Haw. [FNA4, HC, HC2]

Suppl. Pl. Succ. 82. 1819.  
brittle prickly-pear, little prickly-pear

*Opuntia fragilis* (Nutt.) Haw. var. *brachyarthra* (Engelm. & J.M. Bigelow) J.M. Coult. [KZ99]

*Opuntia fragilis* (Nutt.) Haw. var. *fragilis* [KZ99]

#### **Opuntia polyacantha** Haw. [FNA4, HC, HC2]

Suppl. Pl. Succ. 82. 1819.  
starvation pricklypear cactus

**var. polyacantha** [FNA4, HC2]

### **Pediocactus** [FNA4, HC, HC2]

Ill. Fl. N. U.S. ed. 2. 2: 569, fig. 2983. 1913.  
ball cactus

#### **Pediocactus nigrispinus** (Hochstätter) Hochstätter [FNA4, HC2]

Succulenta (Netherlands). 71: 99. 1992.  
basalt cactus, dark-spine ball cactus, snowball cactus

*Pediocactus simpsonii* (Engelm.) Britton & Rose [FNA4, HC, HC2], misapplied

The name *P. simpsonii* var. *robustior* is considered misapplied to plants in Washington.

#### **ssp. nigrispinus** [HC2]

dark-spine ball cactus

*Pediocactus simpsonii* (Englemann) Britton & Rose var. *nigrispinus* Hochstätter

#### **Pediocactus simpsonii** (Engelm.) Britton & Rose [FNA4, HC, HC2]

Ill. Fl. N. U.S. ed. 2. 2: 570. 1913 (as simpsonii).  
Simpson's ball cactus

*Pediocactus simpsonii* (Englemann) Britton & Rose ssp. *robustior* (J.M. Coult.) Hochstätter

*Pediocactus simpsonii* (Engelm.) Britton & Rose var. *minor* (Engelm.) Cockerell [KZ99]

*Pediocactus simpsonii* (Englemann) Britton & Rose var. *robustior* (J.M. Coult.) L.D. Benson [HC]

*Pediocactus simpsonii* (Engelm.) Britton & Rose var. *simpsonii*