

# Washington Flora Checklist

## A checklist of the Vascular Plants of Washington State Hosted by the University of Washington Herbarium

### Family: Cactaceae

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

The Washington Flora Checklist aims to be a complete list of the native and naturalized vascular plants of Washington State, 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synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the [2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest](#) except where superseded by new information.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 Washington Flora Checklist database on April 29th, 2026 at 3:10am PT.  
Available online at <https://burkeherbarium.org/waflora/>

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# Dicots:

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

### **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 phaeacantha** Engelm. [FNA4]

Mem. Amer. Acad. Arts, n. s. 4: 51. 1849.

### **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