

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synonymy at the rank of genus and below follows the [2nd Edition of the Flora of the Pacific Northwest](#) except where superseded by new information.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 May 17th, 2026 at 11:20am PT.

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

Comments and questions should be addressed to the checklist administrators:

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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