

Opuntia aurantiaca **Tiger pear**



Low spreading shrub to 0.3m tall. Branches prostrate to somewhat erect.

- **a** Dark green to dark purple. Flattened, sometimes rounded, 6-15cm long. Easily detached. No tubercles.
- Yellow to orange-yellow.
- Fleshy, globular shaped, to 3cm long. Red-purple. Sterile.
- Usually 2-3 spines, 1-3cm long. Brown-yellowish.

Opuntia elata **Riverina pear**



Shrubby plant with erect branches to 2m tall.

a prickly problem

and agricultural systems within Australian

assist you to identify these prickly invaders.

Invasive cacti are a serious threat to biodiversity

rangeland regions. The key features listed may

- Glossy green, sometimes with a purple tinge (especially around areoles and margins). Often more than 2cm thick, 5-25cm long.
- **Orange**.
- Club shaped, to 6cm long. Purplish red.
- Spines absent, or 1-3 short spines present at some areoles. Whitish yellow.

Large shrub/tall tree to 5m tall.

🔏 Dull blue-green. Flattened,

egg to oblong shape,

Usually with a trunk.

20-60cm long.

뗼 To 10cm long. Yellow,

in Australia.

States and Territories.

orange, red, purple.

🖌 Mostly spineless cultivars

*Note O. ficus-indica is not a

Weed of National Significance

and is not a declared weed in all

陰 Yellow.

Opuntia

Opuntia elatior



Shrubby, forming dense, much branched clumps 5m tall.

- Olive green. Oblong shaped, 10-40cm long.
- Yellow-orange, with red stripes.
- Egg shaped. Reddish when ripe.
- 2-8 spines, 2-4cm long. Needle like. Dark brown.

Opuntia engelmannii



Low shrub to 1.5m tall. Forms dense clumps. Can be confused with O. robusta, but has a low, creeping habit.

Green to blue-green. Flattened, round to egg shaped, 15-20cm long.

Yellow.

- Fleshy, to 7cm long. Purple. Almost spineless.
- 1-6 spines, 1-4cm long. Yellowish.

Opuntia monacantha **Drooping tree pear**



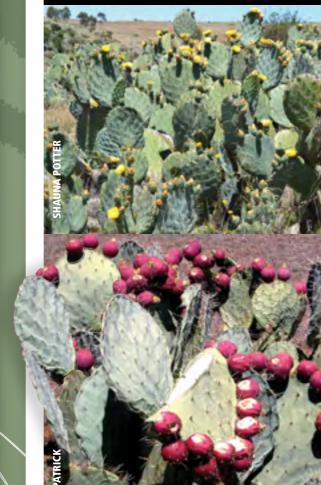
Erect shrub to 2m tall, sometimes with a short trunk. Plant has an obvious drooping appearance.

- Glossy green. Oblong to egg shaped, thin profile, 10-30cm long.
- 🙈 Yellow or orange-yellow.
- Pear shaped, to 7cm long. Red. Spineless.
- 1-2 spines, 2-4cm long. Brown to off-white.

*Opuntia ficus-indica** Indian fig



Opuntia robusta Wheel cactus



Shrubby /tree-like to 2m tall. Many branches.

🔏 Blue green. Circular shape, thick profile, to 40cm wide.

🎽 Yellow.

- Fleshy, globular shaped, to 8cm long. Deep red. Numerous fertile seeds.
- 2-12 spines, up to 5cm long. White to pale brown or yellow.

Areole – small pits or depressions on the surface of segments.

Tubercle – a small raised area or nodule on a plant surface.

Stem segment – distinct, individual part of the stem. Can be cylindrical (e.g. in

Austrocylindropuntia & Cylindropuntia), or flattened (e.g. in Opuntia, commonly

Sheath – papery outer covering of the spine. Only present in *Cylindropuntia* species.

Glochids – small, detachable barbed bristles.

Opuntia microdasys **Bunny ears or Golden bristle cactus**



Branched shrub, forming thickets to 1m tall.

- Green to pale green and velvety. Round to oblong shaped, 6-15cm long. **Distinctive clusters of** yellow glochids.
- Yellow.
- Fleshy, globular shaped, to 3cm long. Red-purple. Sterile.
- Spines usually absent, rarely one.

Opuntia stricta **Common prickly pear**



- Sprawling/ erect shrub, up to 2m tall. Forms thickets. Blue-green. Egg or oblong
- shaped, 10-25cm long.
- Yellow.
- Fleshy, globular to pear shaped, to 6cm long. **Purplish red. Numerous** fertile seeds.
- Spines often absent. In the O. stricta var. dillenii form can be up to 11 spines, 1.5-4cm long. Yellow, or with brown bands.

Opuntia tomentosa



Shrubby to treelike, up to 5m tall. Often with a trunk. Segments and fruits covered in fine hairs, giving a velvety appearance.

Oblong to egg shaped, **15-30cm long**.

🔗 Orange.

- Globular to egg shaped, to 5cm long. Red.
- → Often spineless, but can have 0-4 spines, 0.5-1.5cm long. Whitish-yellow.



- Stem segments 🏀 Flowers Fruits
- Spines



referred to as pads).





This poster is based on a previous version by the South Australian **Opuntia Taskforce.**

Government of South Australia

Biosecurity SA