

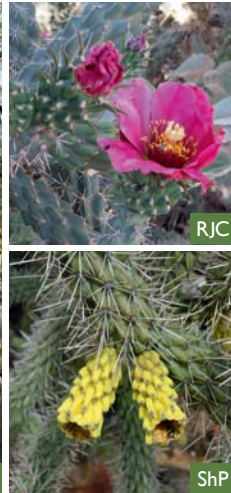


SL

RJC

*Cylindropuntia pallida*

ShP



RJC

ShP

*Cylindropuntia spinosior* fruit (bottom right)

ShP

RJC

*Cylindropuntia tunicata* fruit (bottom right)

sharp whitish spines (to 3 cm long) with papery sheaths, densely packed finely woolly hairs and pale brown glochids. Flowers (3–6 cm across) are showy magenta or purplish-red. Fruit is solitary or in small chains, spineless, barrel-shaped and matures to greenish-yellow or pale yellow. [All mainland states]

*Cylindropuntia pallida* (Hudson pear), previously named *Cylindropuntia rosea*, native from Texas to northern Mexico, is a branched shrub to 1.5 m high and up to 3 m across. Stem segments (5–26 cm long × 1.5–3.5 cm wide) are lumpy and easily separated. Oblong areoles contain 7–14 white to cream spines (to 5 cm long) with papery sheaths, densely packed woolly hairs and small pale brown glochids. Flowers (to 5 cm across) are rose-red to pinkish-purple. Fruit (3–6 cm long) is solitary, egg-shaped and rarely maturing to yellowish-green. Considered one of the worst cactus pests in Australia. Similar to *Cylindropuntia tunicata* which grows in the same areas and has yellowish-brown flowers. [All mainland states]

*Cylindropuntia spinosior* (snake cactus), previously named *Opuntia spinosior*, native from Arizona to northern Mexico, is a compact branching shrub to 1 m high. Stem segments (10–24 cm long × 1.5–3 cm wide) are firmly attached, often reddish, whorled, covered in whitish spines, with pronounced oval tubercles. Oblong areoles contain 6–24 (more on old branches) greyish spines (8–15 mm long) and pale glochids. Flowers (4–5 cm across) are rose to red-purple. Fruit is solitary, egg-shaped, very lumpy and matures to yellow. Large populations are found in Queensland and it is regarded as an emerging weed threat elsewhere. [NSW, Vic, SA, Qld]

*Cylindropuntia tunicata* (brown-spined Hudson pear), native to northern Mexico and Texas, is a low spreading shrub usually growing 30–60 cm high. The upper stem segments (5–25 cm long × 2.5–3 cm wide) are dull grey-green, lumpy and easily separated. Oblong areoles contain 4–7 reddish to yellowish-brown spines (to 5 cm long) with papery sheaths, white to yellowish finely woolly hairs and brown glochids with