

## *Carnegiea gigantea* saguaro

## Flowers for Bats

### Why Observe?

This species is a critical source of nectar for the lesser-long nosed bats that migrate north from Mexico into Arizona every summer. Monitoring the flowering phenology of saguaros will help us understand the relationship between this species and the lesser-long nosed bat.

Data collected will be used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in conserving and protecting habitat for the lesser-long nosed bat.

### Tips for Identification

Saguaros are green, columnar cacti that can reach a height between 30- 40 ft. When mature, they have multiple branches stemming from the center. Saguaros have clustered spines lining each rib. During the summer, saguaros will produce a crown of flowers atop the center column and branches.

They are found at an elevation of 600- 4600 ft. They are most abundant in Arizona, but can also be found in California.

Be aware there is variation from individual to individual within a species, so your plant may not look exactly like the one pictured. If you are uncertain whether or not a phenophase is occurring, report a "?" for its status until it becomes clear what you are observing after subsequent visits.



T.R. Van Devender SEINet



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Katja Schulz Wikimedia Commons (cropped)

### Flowers or flower buds

One or more fresh open or unopened flowers or flower buds are visible on the plant. Include flower buds or inflorescences that are swelling or expanding, but do not include those that are tightly closed and not actively growing (dormant). Also do not include wilted or dried flowers.



Max Eicher SEINet (cropped)

### Open flowers

One or more open, fresh flowers are visible on the plant. Flowers are considered "open" when the reproductive parts (male stamens or female pistils) are visible between or within unfolded or open flower parts (petals, floral tubes or sepals). Do not include wilted or dried flowers.



Anthony Mendoza SEINet (cropped)

### Fruits

One or more fruits are visible on the plant. For *Carnegiea gigantea*, the fruit is a fleshy, juicy, very large berry that changes from green to yellow-green, reddish-green or red and splits open to expose red pulp filled with seeds. Do not include empty fruits that no longer have any red pulp or seeds.



Frankie Coburn SEINet (cropped)

### Ripe fruits

One or more ripe fruits are visible on the plant. For *Carnegiea gigantea*, a fruit is considered ripe when it has turned yellow-green, reddish-green or red and has split open to expose red pulp filled with seeds. Do not include empty fruits that no longer have any red pulp or seeds.

**Phenophases not pictured:** Recent fruit or seed drop