

Stenocereus thurberi
organ pipe cactus

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 the organ pipe cactus 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.



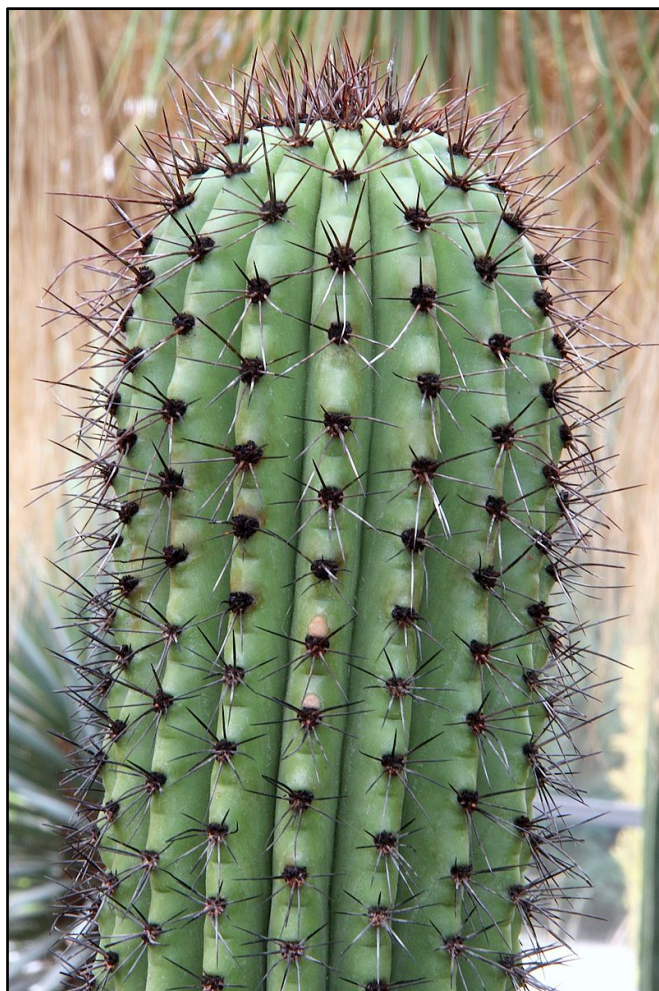
[Ken Lund via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

Tips for Identification

The organ pipe is a green, columnar cactus that has a height ranging from 20-30 feet. This species has a similar morphology to the cardon cactus in having multiple branches stemming from the base, near the ground. The organ pipe has more slender stems. Individuals have areoles, containing clustered spines, that line the ribs. During the late-Spring/early-Summer, individuals will produce white flowers that form the tops of the stems.

This species is found at an elevation of sea level to 3300 ft. They are most abundant in Baja California and Sonora of Mexico; as well as a small part of Southern Arizona.

Be aware that 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.



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Organ Pipe National Monument, National Park Service

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.



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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.



Fruits

One or more fruits are visible on the plant. For *Stenocereus thurberi*, the fruit is a fleshy, juicy, very large berry covered in clusters of spines that changes from green to 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.



Ripe fruits

One or more ripe fruits are visible on the plant. For *Stenocereus thurberi*, a fruit is considered ripe when it has turned 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