

OPUNTIA HUMIFUSA (Raf.) Raf.
Prickley Pear

FAMILY: Cactaceae

SYNONYMS: *Opuntia compressa* Macbride; *Opuntia rafinesquei* Engelm.

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, creeping erect or spreading, forming small colonies up to 1 meter across; flowering June-July; fruiting August-September

SIMILAR SPECIES: Only cactus native to Ohio, similar to *O. macrorhiza*, a rare adventive, but spines are solitary and borne in only a few of the areoles compared with spines several and borne in most areoles.

TOTAL RANGE: E. MA to s. Ontario and s. MN, s. to FL and e. TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records from Adams, Erie, Fulton, Gallia, Henry, Lawrence, Lucas, Meigs, Pike, Ross, Warren, Washington, and Wood Counties. Pre-1980 records from six counties: Fairfield, Highland, Muskingum, Jackson, Ottawa, and Sandusky.

HABITAT: In full sun on well-drained soils; rocks, sand barrens, sandy fields and hillsides.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession; fire suppression.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect flowering or fruiting material.

COMMENTS: The distribution and abundance is probably close to being fully known in the state. It is often planted and care should be taken to distinguish between populations that are native or possibly adventive.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Noelle, H.J. and W.H. Blackwell, Jr. 1972. The Cactaceae in Ohio. Castanea 37: 11-124.

Voss, E.G. 1985. Michigan Flora, Part II. Dicots (Saururaceae-Cornaceae). Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bull. 59, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 724 pp.



Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

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