

# Pima pineapple cactus (*Coryphantha scheeri* var. *robustispina*)



Mature Pima pineapple cactus plant in bloom, August 2007

Pima County NRPR, 2007

# Pima pineapple cactus (PPC)

Lorena B. Moore [www.mineralarts.com](http://www.mineralarts.com)



Mature Pima pineapple cactus are typically small and rounded, up to 8-10" tall (may be as much as 18" per AGFD). **All *Coryphantha* species have TUBERCLES with a central groove on top.** Vegetative buds have no central spine on the first row of tubercles. New tubercles with soft spines crown the plant in spring. Note the **spine cluster** with the stout central curved spine.

**FRUITS are greenish yellow.** Photo taken in mid-August shows two ripe fruits from May flowers and five smaller fruits from late July flowers

## Similar species: barrel cactus

Young barrel cacti can be mistaken for PPC. Barrels have longitudinal **RIBS**, not conical **TUBERCLES**, and there will be no **CENTRAL GROOVE** along the top. Large red central spines are flattened, ridged, and always hooked.



Lorena B. Moore [www.mineralarts.com](http://www.mineralarts.com)



[www.cactus-art.biz](http://www.cactus-art.biz)

# Needle-spined pineapple cactus (*Echinomastus erectocentrus* var. *erectocentrus*)

Pima County NRPR, 2008



Needle-spined pineapple cactus on Arizona Trail

Lorena B. Moore [www.mineralarts.com](http://www.mineralarts.com)



**Large multi-headed plant**

Lorena B. Moore [www.mineralarts.com](http://www.mineralarts.com)



Needle-spined cactus in bloom

# Needle-spined pineapple cactus

Lorena B. Moore [www.mineralarts.com](http://www.mineralarts.com)



Needle-spined pineapple cactus is a **small cactus to 6 inches tall with tubercles about 6 mm long.**

**Erect** central spines are long and dark.

Dead "**tent**" of spines.

Similar species: hedgehog cactus  
(*Echinocereus* sp.)

Plants typically grow in larger clusters than needle-spined pineapple cactus, lack tubercles, and do not have the upward-pointed spines at the top of the plant.



cactiguide.com



cactiguide.com



www.geologia-son.unam.mx



Similar species: Fishhook pincushion cactus (*Mammillaria* sp.)



Small, clumping species with a slender hooked central spine and white radial spines. Although *Mammillaria* does have tubercles it lacks the upward-pointed spines at the top of the plant found in the needle-spined pineapple cactus.