

Table of Differences Between *Opuntia dillenii* and *O. stricta*

<i>Opuntia dillenii</i> , USUALLY	<i>Opuntia stricta</i> , USUALLY
Wider, larger, thinner pads, commonly with undulate margins.	Narrower, thicker pads, less likely to have undulate margins.
Areoles often slightly raised but pads not noticeably bumpy.	Areoles typically prominently raised, particularly on younger pads, making pads often appear rather lumpy.
Vasculature may be visible below epidermis, especially on young pads.	Vasculature not often visible.
Plants share similarities with the smaller <i>O. zebrina</i> , but no banded spines	Plants not noticeably similar to the smaller <i>O. zebrina</i>
Plant growth habit typically more erect, less spreading horizontally. Overall, mature plants are taller.	Plant habit typically less erect, more spreading horizontally. Overall, mature plants are not tall.
Spineless plants relatively rare, even in cultivation.	Spinless plants commonly found, at least in cultivation.
On sides of pads (ignore edges), glochids of various sizes typically spread throughout the areole, even on relatively young pads. [NOTE: spineless plants may largely lack glochids.]	On sides of pads (ignore edges), glochids rarely spread throughout the areole; except sometimes on old pads several years of age. Usually in a distinct thin semicircle of glochids around the top edge of areole. [NOTE: spineless plants may largely lack glochids.]
Fruit with areoles more concentrated at the top, with several touching the umbilicus (at least four and usually more)	Fruit with areoles fewer and more evenly spaced. Few areoles touching the umbilicus (usually only three or less)
Fruit less smoothly rounded in shape with more prominent rim at top. Most often broadly turbinate (but varies to roughly barrel-shaped). Often with a pale waxy coating when fully mature.	Fruit more smoothly rounded in shape, with less prominent rim at top. Most often pear-shaped with a distinct neck (but varies to spherical). Generally, without an obvious waxy coating.
Flowers nearly always yellow, but rarely varies to pink	Flowers yellow, but may be bright orange or red if from Yucatan