

Common but not absolute differences between *Opuntia dulcis* and *O. confusa*

<b>Opuntia dulcis</b>	<b>Opuntia confusa</b>
Larger	Smaller
Smaller areoles	Larger areoles
Varied areole color	Areoles quite dark
Glochids as in <i>O. phaeacantha</i> (crescent)	Glochids scattered irregularly in areole
Areoles smaller	Areoles larger
Spines variable color	Some pads major spines are
shorter	longer
slender	heavy, angular,
one out and one down	spreading,
1-3 major spines	3 or more major spines per areole,
	Some pads major spines are like <i>O. dulcis</i> , slender and one upright
Non-black spines on older plants	Black spines on older plants
Spines colored as in <i>O. engelmannii</i>	White spines with chocolate-black bases
Less blue	Bluer plants
Not all flowers darken to red	All flowers darken through to red with age
Flowers with red or orange centers	Flowers all yellow at first