

**Common but not absolute differences between *Opuntia engelmannii* and *O. valida***

<b><i>Opuntia engelmannii</i></b>	<b><i>Opuntia valida</i></b>
<p>Elliptical or obovate pads</p> <p>1 or 2 erect centrals, sometimes</p> <p>1 or 2 centrals (or none)</p> <p>May have radials flat against pad</p> <p>Spines often shorter and more slender</p> <p>Older stems do not become spinier</p> <p>Pear-shaped or globose fruit</p> <p>Fruit without small spines</p> <p>Spines yellow, or white or variable</p> <p>Spine bases brown, black, red-brown</p> <p>Widespread, but sometimes absent</p> <p>Spine color may fade or darken with age</p>	<p>Elongate or rhomboid pads</p> <p>More or more prominent central spines</p> <p>2 or 3 centrals up to 1 ½ inches long</p> <p>Radials never flat against pad</p> <p>Spines longer and more robust</p> <p>Older stems become spinier</p> <p>Slender fruit, or not globose</p> <p>Fruit with small spines</p> <p>Spines cream-colored</p> <p>Spine bases chocolate, very dark</p> <p>Restricted distribution</p> <p>Spine color doesn't change with age, except on very old stems they may darken</p>