

PIMA PINEAPPLE CACTUS
(*Coryphantha scheeri* var. *robustispina*)

STATUS: Endangered (58 FR 49875; September 23, 1993) without critical habitat.

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: The Pima pineapple cactus is an attractive hemispherical plant, the adults measuring 10-46 cm (4-18 in.) tall and 7.5-18 cm (3-7 in.) in diameter. The spines appear in clusters with one strong, usually hooked central spine and 6-15 straight radial spines. The spines are very stout, usually straw colored, but become black with age. The plants can be single-stemmed, multi-headed, or can appear in clusters. The flowers are silky yellow (rarely white) in color and appear in early July with the summer rains. Flowering continues until August. The fruit is green, ellipsoid, succulent and sweet.

HABITAT: This cactus grows in alluvial basins or on hillsides in semi-desert grassland and Sonoran desertscrub in southern Arizona and northern Mexico. Soils range from shallow to deep, and silty to rocky, with a preference for silty to gravely deep alluvial soils. The plant occurs most commonly in open areas on flat ridge tops or areas with less than 10-15% slope.

RANGE: Current: Pima pineapple cactus is found from 700-1,400 m (2,300-4,500 ft) elevation in Pima and Santa Cruz counties, Arizona and northern Sonora, Mexico. The range extends east from the Baboquivari Mountains to the western foothills of the Santa Rita Mountains. The northernmost boundary is near Tucson.

Potential: Potential habitat for this species is difficult to estimate due to its habitat requirements and the topographic complexity within its range

REASONS FOR DECLINE / VULNERABILITY: Threats to this species include illegal collection, habitat degradation due to recreation and historical and present overuse of the habitat by livestock, habitat loss due to mining, agriculture, road construction, urbanization, aggressive non-native grasses, and range management practices to increase livestock forage.

LAND MANAGEMENT / OWNERSHIP: Bureau of Land Management, Coronado National Forest, Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, State Land Department, possibly Bureau of Reclamation, and the Tohono O'Odham and Pascua Yaqui Tribes.

NOTES: Protected from international trade by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Also protected by the Arizona Native Plant Law. Also known as Scheer's strong-spined cory cactus. *Mammillaria robustispina* is a synonym for *Coryphantha scheeri* var. *robustispina*.

This species can be confused with juvenile barrel cactus (*Ferocactus*).