

Cienega Creek Natural Preserve

Special Status Plants

Needle Spined Pineapple Cactus (*Echinomastus erectocentrus* var. *erectocentrus*)

Federal Status: Species of Concern (former Category Candidate 2)

State Status: Salvage Restricted under the Arizona Native Plant Law

Other Status: Forest Service Sensitive; Vulnerable Status 1 by the SDCP

Rankings: G3 S3

Description: Succulent perennial that is characteristically a single stem, 4-6 inches tall (although occasionally 12-15 inches), and 3-5 inches in diameter. It has 1 to 2 reddish-brown central spines that are surrounded by 11 to 15 radial spines. The flowers are pink, 1.5 inches long, and 1.5 to 1.8 inches wide with bright red stigma lobes. The fruit is green when young, tan when dry, and is 0.4 inch long and 0.3 inch wide (RECON, 2001).

General Location: There are confirmed sightings of this cactus in the upland areas of the Preserve.



Illustration by Bill Singleton,
Pima County Graphic Services

Pima Pineapple Cactus (*Coryphantha scheeri* var. *robustispina*)

Federal Status: Endangered by the USFWS (1993)

State Status: Highly Safeguarded under the Arizona Native Plant Law

Other Status: Protected from international trade by CITES; Vulnerable Status 1 by the SDCP

Rankings: G4 S2

Description: Succulent perennial that is hemispherical or cylindroid in shape and 4-18 inches tall and 3-7 inches in diameter. The spines are very stout and straw-colored when young, but blacken with age. Each spine cluster has 1 strong central spine that is usually curved or hooked at the tip. There are 6 radial spines in young plants, and these increase to 10 to 15 in older plants. The plant may occur in clusters, which are formed either by producing basal offsets or when seeds germinate at the base of the mother plant. The flowers are bright silky yellow, or rarely white, with coral edges and have a narrow floral tube. The fruit is green, ellipsoid, succulent and sweet (RECON, 2001).

General Location: Arizona Game and Fish Department records indicate that this plant may be present within the vicinity of the Preserve. However, there have been no confirmed sightings (McGann & Associates, 1994).



Illustration by Bill Singleton,
Pima County Graphic Services

Huachuca Water Umbel (*Lilaeopsis schaffneriana* ssp. *recurva*)

Federal Status: Endangered by the USFWS (1997)

State Status: Highly Safeguarded under the Arizona Native Plant Law (1993)

Other Status: Forest Service Sensitive (1999); Vulnerable Status 1 by the SDCP

Rankings: G4T2 S2

Description: Herbaceous semi-aquatic perennial with tiny 3- to 10-flowered umbels that arise from nodes of creeping shallow (0.4-0.8 inch) underground rhizomes that run along the bottom of still ponds. Its cylindrical, hollow leaves are pale green in color and typically borne 2 or 3 per node. The plant is generally less than 0.12 inch in diameter; however, length varies depending on the microhabitat. When growing above water in wet soil near streams, stems are often 1.5 to 2.0 inches tall, but can reach up to 8.0 inches. Flowers are typically 0.04-0.08 inch wide with tiny maroon-tinted petals. Fruits are globose, less than 0.1 inch in diameter, and slightly longer than wide (RECON, 2001).

General Location: Surveys conducted in May-June 2001 discovered one small population within the Preserve at the edge of the main channel in a large marshy area. Potential introduction sites within the Preserve are numerous and diverse in character (Titus et al., 2001).

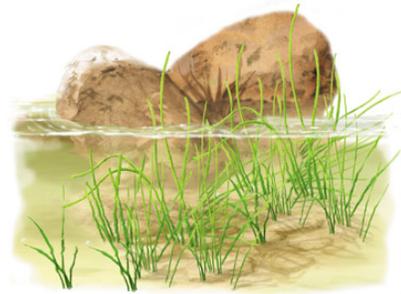


Illustration by Bill Singleton,
Pima County Graphic Services

Sources:

McGann and Associates, Inc. 1994. Cienega Creek Natural Preserve Management Plan: Background Report. Prepared for the Pima County Department of Transportation and Flood Control District, Pima County, Arizona.

Titus, P. and B. Wooldridge, J. Kirchner, B. Prest and E. Matranga. 2001. Huachuca Water Umbel Report. Prepared for the Sonoran Desert Conservation and Comprehensive Use Plan. Pima County Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona.

RECON. 2001. Priority Vulnerable Species. Prepared for the Multi-Species Conservation Plan. Pima County Board of Supervisors, Pima County Arizona.