

**BAKERSFIELD CACTUS
(OPUNTIA BASILARIS VAR TRELEASEI)**

Federal/California status: Endangered/Endangered
California Native Plant Society List 1B

Photos



Description

Like other beavertail cacti, Bakersfield cactus has fleshy, flattened green stems, or pads. The pads vary in outline from rounded, heart-shaped, or diamond-shaped to nearly cylindrical. A single plant may consist of hundreds of pads, which originate both at ground level and from the tips of other pads. Bakersfield cactus can grow up to 14 inches (35 cm) high and 33 feet (10 meters) across. The pads and fruits are dotted with eye-spots, which are rounded structures that contain barbed bristles.

Bakersfield cactus is a perennial and has showy magenta flowers that typically bloom in May.

Habitat

Bakersfield cactus grows in sandy soils of washes, ridges, and stream channels within saltbush scrub, grassland, and oak woodland communities.

Range/distribution

Bakersfield cactus is found only in a limited area of central and south-central Kern County in the vicinity of Bakersfield.

Photo: © Rosalie Faubion