Cacti of the Dryland Mesa Garden

Can you find all of these cacti? If you aren’t sure which cactus is which, use the Identification Guide on the back side. Be careful because the guide does not contain all of the cacti found in the garden.

Fishhook Cactus  
Ferocactus wulzieni

Engelmann’s Hedgehog Cactus  
Echinocereus engelmannii

Fendler’s Hedgehog Cactus  
Echinocereus fendleri

Rainbow Hedgehog Cactus  
Echinocereus pectinatus

Spiny Cholla  
Cylindropuntia spinosior

Silver Cholla  
Cylindropuntia echinocarpa

Cream Pincushion  
Mammillaria gummifera

Beavertail Prickly Pear  
Opuntia basilaris

Purple Prickly Pear  
Opuntia violacea

Engelmann’s Prickly Pear  
Opuntia engelmannii

Sprawling Prickly Pear  
Opuntia phaeacantha

Diamond Cholla  
Cylindropuntia ramosissima

Note: The Identification Guide uses images from and is an adaptation of “Easy Field Guide to Common Desert Cactus” by Richard and Sharon Nelson
Identification Guide to the Cacti of the Dryland Mesa Garden

Are the stems flattened or round?
- round
  - Does the stem have continuous ribs that run from top to bottom?
    - yes
      - What is the diameter of the stem?
        - More than 5”
          - Fishhook Barrel Cactus
        - Less than 4”
          - Rainbow Hedgehog Cactus
    - no
      - Does the stem have branches?
        - yes
          - Purple Prickly Pear
        - no
          - Cream Pin Cushion

- flattened
  - Do the stems have long spines?
    - no
      - Beavertail Prickly Pear
    - yes
      - What color are the stems?
        - purple
          - Engelmann’s Prickly Pear
        - another color
          - Sprawling Prickly Pear

What color are the stems?
- purple
  - Are the stems flattened or round?
    - yes
      - What is the diameter of the stem?
        - More than 5”
          - Fishhook Barrel Cactus
        - Less than 4”
          - Rainbow Hedgehog Cactus
    - no
      - Is the main central spine flattened and twisted?
        - yes
          - Engelmann’s Hedgehog Cactus
        - no
          - Fendler’s Hedgehog Cactus

- another color
  - Does the cactus have continuous ribs that run from top to bottom?
    - yes
      - Is the stem covered with diamond-shaped scales?
        - yes
          - Diamond Cholla
        - no
          - Silver Cholla
    - no
      - Are the spines long?
        - yes
          - Sprawling Prickly Pear
        - no
          - Cane Cholla