

Test Your Cactus & Succulent Knowledge

“Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society Postcard Quiz”

Did you know...

- All Cactus are Succulents but not all Succulents are Cactus.
- Cactus have areoles, small bumps all over that allow spines, stems or roots to grow.
- Our native cactus growing in their original location in the Arizona desert are protected by State laws.
- Spines provide protection, shade and reach-out to collect water droplets.
- The plural for cactus is both cactuses and cacti.

Referring to the photos on the TCSS Postcard, can you answer these questions from your knowledge about the plants featured on the card?

(just list their numbers from the postcard)

- A. Which plants are Succulents? (List all that apply) _____
- B. Which plants are Cactus? (List all that apply) _____
- C. Which plant produces our Arizona State Flower, blooms at night and closes the next afternoon? ____
- D. Which plant does a Cactus Wrens (our state bird) like the best for nesting? ____
- E. Which plant do hummingbirds like that has reddish-orange blooms high in the air? ____
- F. Which plant has lots of nectaries (small pin head size bumps) on the crown of the cactus providing sweets to attract ants to help protect the cactus from moth larvae that can destroy the plant? ____
- G. Which plant looks like a dead stick until it blooms, blooms at night and has a huge white flower? ____
- H. Which plant is very small, likes to grow under bushes, has small fishhooks and often blooms after a rain? ____
- I. Which is the largest cactus that is native to the US, we have lots of them in and around Tucson? ____
- J. Which small plant is federally protected because it is very scarce, looks a bit like a small pineapple? ____
- K. Which plant produces a tall bloom stalk and most of these plants die after they bloom? ____
- L. Which is the most plentiful plant in our desert and provides luscious fruit close to the ground for animals? ____
- M. Which plant blooms in early April and has the same name as an animal? ____
- N. Which plant often has a white fuzz on its pads called cochineal (a scale insect) used as a bright red dye? ____
- O. Which plant is often referred to as a desert spoon and its leaves are used to make baskets, mats & cordage? ____
- P. Which plant has large fishhook spines that can be used for fishing, it usually blooms in August? ____
- Q. One type of this plant is called *versicolor*, flower colors can vary on the plant and from plant to plant? ____
- R. Which plant has circular pads that can be harvested and fried to make Nopalitos? ____
- S. Which plant can reproduce using any or all of these; pups, seeds, bulbils (small plants on the bloom stalk)? ____
- T. Which cactus can live over 150 years and is often called “majestic”, “magnificent”, “icon of the desert”? ____

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Note: Answers to the questions above are on our website, see the second page to this sheet.

jmf 8/14/13

ANSWERS

“Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society Postcard Quiz”

Referring to the photos on the TCSS Postcard, can you answer these questions from your knowledge about the plants featured on the card?
(just list their numbers from the postcard)

- A. Which plants are Succulents? (List all that apply) ALL
- B. Which plants are Cactus? (List all that apply) 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11
- C. Which plant produces our Arizona State Flower, blooms at night and closes the next afternoon? 1
- D. Which plant does a Cactus Wrens (our state bird) like the best for nesting? 6
- E. Which plant do hummingbirds like that has reddish-orange blooms high in the air? 4
- F. Which plant has lots of nectaries (small pin head size bumps) on the crown of the cactus providing sweets to attract ants to help protect the cactus from moth larvae that can destroy the plant? 8
- G. Which plant looks like a dead stick until it blooms, blooms at night and has a huge white flower? 7
- H. Which plant is very small, likes to grow under bushes, has small fishhooks and often blooms after a rain? 9
- I. Which is the largest cactus that is native to the US, we have lots of them in and around Tucson? 1
- J. Which small plant is federally protected because it is very scarce, looks a bit like a small pineapple? 3
- K. Which plant produces a tall bloom stalk and most of these plants die after they bloom? 10
- L. Which is the most plentiful plant in our desert and provides luscious fruit close to the ground for animals? 11
- M. Which plant blooms in early April and has the same name as an animal? 2
- N. Which plant often has a white fuzz on its pads called cochineal (a scale insect) used as a bright red dye? 11
- O. Which plant is often referred to as a desert spoon and its leaves are used to make baskets, mats & cordage? 5
- P. Which plant has large fishhook spines that can be used for fishing, it usually blooms in August? 8
- Q. One type of this plant is called *versicolor*, flower colors can vary on the plant and from plant to plant? 6
- R. Which plant has circular pads that can be harvested and fried to make Nopalitos? 11
- S. Which plant can reproduce using any or all of these; pups, seeds, bulbils (small plants on the bloom stalk)? 10
- T. Which cactus can live over 150 years and is often called “majestic”, “magnificent”, “icon of the desert”? 1

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