

Mountain ball cactus



Scientific name: *Pediocactus simpsonii*
(Engelmann) Britton & Rose

Common names: Mountain ball cactus, Simpson's footcactus, Barrel cactus, Simpson's hedgehog cactus, Snowball pediocactus

There are two species of cactus found in Uinta County. This species has a spherical, unbranched stem that can grow up to 25 cm tall and 15 cm wide. It is usually found growing singularly, rarely in clusters. The petals can be pink to white and sometimes purplish, blooming from April to May. Because cacti lack green leaves, the stems are the fleshy, photosynthetic part of the plant.



This cactus loves high elevations and is adapted for cold winters and cool summer nights. The Mountain ball cactus is found mainly in the SE quadrant of the county and is not as abundant or as noticeable as the Pricklypear cactus.

The scientific name of this cactus is *Pediocactus simpsonii*. The meaning of the Greek word pedi is either 'plain' (referring to the habitat) or 'foot'.

