

NO.	SPECIES	COMMON NAME	CATEGORY / AREA	SCOPE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 71(3) / PROHIBITION IN TERMS OF SECTION 71A(1)
236.	<i>Opuntia aurantiaca</i> Lindl.	Jointed cactus	1b	
237.	<i>Opuntia elata</i> Link & Otto ex Salm-Dyck	Orange tuna	1b	
238.	<i>Opuntia engelmannii</i> Salm-Dyck ex Engelm. (= <i>O. lindheimeri</i> Engelm., <i>O. tardospina</i> Griffiths)	Small round-leaved prickly pear	1b	
239.	<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i> (L.) Mill. (= <i>O. megacantha</i> Salm-Dyck)	Mission prickly pear, Sweet prickly pear	a. 1b b. Spineless cactus pear cultivars and selections are not listed. c. The fruit of the sweet prickly pear is not listed if used for human consumption.	
240.	<i>Opuntia humifusa</i> (Raf.) Raf. (<i>O. compressa</i> misapplied in South Africa)	Large-flowered prickly pear, Creeping prickly pear	1b	
241.	<i>Opuntia leucotricha</i> DC.	Aaron's-beard prickly-pear	1b	
242.	<i>Opuntia microdasys</i> (Lehm.) Pfeiff.	Yellow bunny-ears, Teddy-bear cactus	1b	
243.	<i>Opuntia monacantha</i> Haw. (<i>O. vulgaris</i> misapplied in South Africa)	Cochineal prickly pear, Drooping prickly pear	1b	
244.	<i>Opuntia pubescens</i> J.C.Wendl. ex Pfeiff. (= <i>O. pestifer</i> Britton & Rose)	Velvet bur cactus	1a	
245.	<i>Opuntia robusta</i> H.L.Wendl. ex Pfeiff.	Blue-leaf cactus	a. 1a b. Spineless cultivars and selections are not listed.	
246.	<i>Opuntia salmiana</i> J. Parm. ex Pfeiff.	Bur cactus	1a	
247.	<i>Opuntia spinulifera</i> Salm-Dyck	Saucepan cactus, Large roundleaved prickly pear	1b	
248.	<i>Opuntia stricta</i> (Haw.) Haw. var. <i>stricta</i> and var. <i>dillenii</i> (Ker Gawl.) L.D.Benson (= <i>O. dillenii</i> (Ker Gawl.)Haw.)	Pest pear of Australia	1b	
249.	<i>Opuntia tomentosa</i> Salm-Dyck	Velvet opuntia, Velvet tree-pear	1b	
250.	<i>Orobanche minor</i> Sm.	Lesser broomrape, Clover broomrape	1b	
251.	<i>Orobanche ramosa</i> L.	Blue broomrape, Branched broomrape	1b	
252.	<i>Paraserianthes lophantha</i> (Willd.) I.C.Nielsen	Australian albizia, Stink bean	1b	

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Prickly pear (*Opuntia ficus-indica*) (Cactaceae)

The weed

Prickly pear (also referred to in South Africa as sweet or mission prickly pear) is of Mexican origin. It is a tree or tall shrub, up to 5 m tall, with a thick, woody trunk. The stems are divided into flattened, narrow, elliptical segments or leafpads (cladodes) that are green but covered with a dull, bluish wax. In the invasive form, the cladodes and trunk are armed with one or more long (up to 2.5 cm), white spines per areole. Furthermore, short, fine bristles (glochids) occur on all the areoles. Prickly pear produces orange flowers that open during the day, and which give rise to elliptical or egg-shaped fruits with colours ranging from yellow and orange to red and purple. Despite numerous glochid-bearing areoles, the fruits have a pale, sweet pulp, which makes them very popular with humans, other mammals and frugivorous birds.

Centuries ago, a hybrid, which had been selected for spinelessness and high fruit quality, was introduced into South Africa, where a variety of cultivars are still being used as a source of fruit and fodder, and as a hedge plant. Subsequently, spiny forms have emerged from these spineless cultivars through cross-pollination. Whereas the spineless cultivars are browsed by various animals, the spiny form is protected from herbivores, thus gaining a competitive advantage that allows them to gradually displace the natural vegetation and pastures. The seeds are dispersed effectively by birds, humans and other mammals. Prickly pear is present throughout the country, but invades mainly dry and rocky places in the savanna, thicket and karoo.

In terms of the Alien and Invasive Species Regulations (AIS), National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No 10 of 2004), the spiny form of *O. ficus-indica* was declared a category 1 weed, which necessitates its control, or removal and destruction if possible. No trade or planting of prickly pear is allowed, with the exception of fruit if used for human consumption. However, all spineless cultivars and selections (commonly known as Cactus Pear) are exempt from this legislation, and may be cultivated without legal objections.