



### Mesa Verde Cactus (Sclerocactus mesae-verdae)



Photo Source: New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council



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**Mesa Verde Cactus**  
**(Sclerocactus mesae-verdae)**

Federal status: Threatened  
Colorado status: Not listed

This small cactus displays beautiful, pale yellow flowers on top of its globe-shaped stem in late April. The stems are pale green or gray-green with dark tipped spines. The plant grows to a maximum size of only 2 to 2.5 inches in height, 3 to 3.5 inches in diameter.

Habitat: This species is most frequently found growing on the tops of hills or benches, slopes of hills, and very rarely on level ground between the hills or benches at elevations between 4,000 to 5,000 feet. It is found only in Colorado's Montezuma County.



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