

# SAGUARO CACTUS

The saguaro (*sah-WAH-ro*) cactus grows in only one place: the Sonoran Desert. Saguaros can live to be 200 years old, and can be as tall as 50 feet (15 meters).



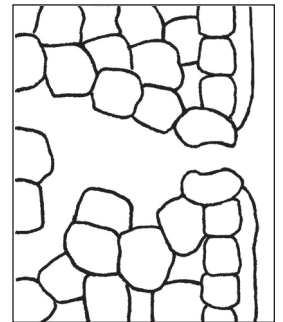
Flowers bloom all year, but mostly in May. Fruits ripen in June and July.



The accordion shape allows the stem to swell quickly.

Saguaros don't sprout an arm until they are at least 30 years old.

- MICROSCOPIC VIEW:
- thick, waxy layer (cuticle)
  - guard cells around stoma
  - epidermis cells
  - parenchyma cells
  - chloroplasts (photosynthesis)



Baby saguaros have a better chance at survival if they happen to sprout under the shelter of another plant. At 2 years old they are about 1 cm (1/2") tall.

The saguaro has a shallow and wide root system that is perfect for gathering water quickly. Roots will go as wide as the saguaro is tall.