


resources & more information

for community members:

www.pollinator.org
www.citizenscience.org

for educators:

www.fws.gov/pollinators
pollinator.org/education.htm

for researchers:

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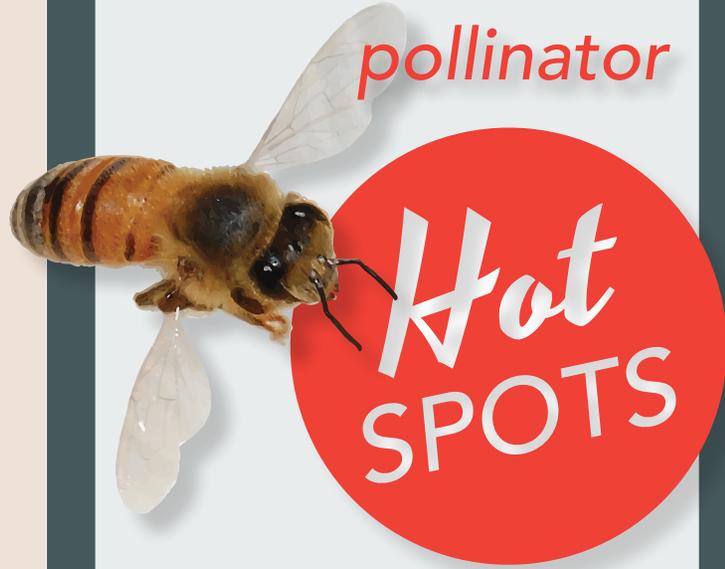
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**METABOLIC
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Citizen science

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**Hot
SPOTS**

pollination counts!

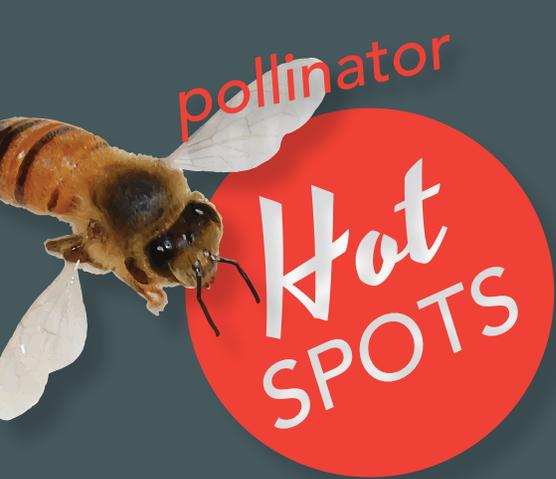


Thank you

for helping us better
understand how we
impact our plants
and pollinators!

ARIZONA-SONORA
**DESERT
MUSEUM**

2021 N. Kinney Road
Tucson, AZ 85743
www.desertmuseum.org
(520) 883-1380



Human activities have changed the availability and distribution of many desert resources, including water.

- How do native species such as pollinators respond to these changes?
- More pollinators = more seeds. By counting seeds we may be able to tell where there are more or fewer pollinators.
- What parts of the Sonoran Desert currently have high pollinator densities, and why?

You can help us find out!



New fruits will appear on the plant in October. Pick a fruit between the center and the edge.

How can I help?

1. **Find** a barrel cactus
2. **Measure** the plant
3. **Pick** a fruit
4. **Count** the seeds
5. **Send** us the seed count, the plant location, and the plant height.

Species: fishhook barrel cactus
 Slightly curved spines shaped like fishhooks
 Shin-to-shoulder high plant



How do I measure the plant?

A yardstick works well. Try to measure from the base to the crown. Measure the plant's total height, even if that means you have to hold the yardstick at a slant.

How do I pick a fruit?

Luckily, barrel cactus fruits don't have spines, but there are spines around them. Wait until the fruits are bright yellow, when they come off most easily. Try not to pick a fruit right at the center or edge of the crown— aim for in between to get an average size.



How do I count the seeds?



The seeds are easiest to count when they are dry. Cut the fruit open and leave it somewhere to dry, like on a windowsill. Once it's dry, shake the seeds out into a bowl or cup. Count a small pile at a time so you can keep track.

Submitting your data:

Data entry is easy! Find the datasheet at: www.desertmuseum.org/hotspots.

Type in the location of the barrel cactus (either the GPS location or as much detail as you can), its approximate height, and the number of seeds. Finally, check the box for whether the plant is watered (if you know the answer).

