

Oval/Lower Rose Garden



When you hear “rose” do you think of thorns? Most people do, but thorns are really modified stems that are round and pointy on the end. Mesquite trees and lime trees are good examples of plants with thorns. Roses on the other hand have something called prickles. Prickles are sharp outgrowths from the epidermis (or skin) of a plant. Another type of pokey plant parts are spines. Like thorns, spines are round and pointy on the end, but spines come from leaves, not stems. The prickly pear cactus is covered with spines! Can you think of reasons why plants would need these pokey appendages?

Can you label which plant has thorns, prickles, or spines?


