

**POST-HARVEST REGROWTH AND MORTALITY OF *LOPHOPHORA WILLIAMSII*
(PEYOTE) *IN SITU* IN A SOUTH TEXAS POPULATION**

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In March 2008, 100 peyote plants located along a beltline transect in a South Texas population were individually numbered and tagged. Half (50) of the individuals were harvested using best harvesting practices. The other half (50) of the individuals were left unharvested as negative controls. The plants were monitored to check for regrowth in November 2008, March 2009, and March 2010. At the two-year time point, the two groups were compared in terms of mortality/survivorship of the original plants and also in terms of total number and average size of living crowns (photosynthetic tops of stems, aka “buttons”), including those produced as “regrowth” in response to harvesting. The harvested group showed 10.4% mortality, compared to 2.1% mortality in the unharvested control group. The total number of living crowns was 111 in the harvested group, compared to 80 in the control group. The mean diameter of the crowns in the harvested group was 19.2 mm, compared to 37.7 mm in the unharvested group. The implications of these data for the conservation of the species are discussed.