



# ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

## PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### Prickly Pear Spurge *Euphorbia opuntoides*

**DESCRIPTION:** This diminutive-sized African plant resembles a miniature prickly pear cactus. It has flattened, 2 or 3-angled blue-gray branches with paired spines on margins. This is only in its gross appearance, as it is in the spurge family, not the cactus family; a good example of convergent evolution. Clusters of small purple-brown or maroon flowering structures appear on the stems in the spring and summer. The major drawing point of this plant is its form, not flower.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Potted accent.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** Barely frost hardy; protect below 30°F. Takes even less cold if actively growing.



**Sun tolerance:** Needs light shade, especially during the summer.



**Watering and feeding:** Water up to once a week during the hottest months. Discontinue watering during winter dormancy. Feed two or three times during the year.



**Soil requirements:** A well-drained potting mix.



**Pruning:** Remove old dried stems. Severe pruning can bring on a flush of new stems.



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